S.
4
4-3-05.

Political (~~190~~ 1871) Department.

Confl Disposal

ORDINARY

~~G.O., No.~~ Decr 1870

Confidential No. ~~[illegible]~~

DATED to Feby 1871

[Despatch Abstract.]

Maharajá of Travancore and his Dewan Sir T. Madhava Rao

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Da

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Da

Demi. Official Correspondence - re Maharaja of Travancore and his Dewan

Decr 1870 to Feby 1871

Give this a Cm Dis No

[illegible]
15/3/06

Private & Confidential

Sir Madava Row, & Mr. Menchi [?]

Dec. 13. / 70.

Trivandrum
13th Decr 1870

My dear Sir,

I regret much to have to inform you that I have had an unpleasantness with His Highness the Maharajah, though it has ever been my study to avoid such. The enclosed copy of an humble & respectful explanation which I have submitted to His Highness will explain the circumstances.

I trust that it will be manifest to you after perusal of the memo that my conduct was free from fault & not open to the animadversion made.

The fact is, I was not at all aware of what the Palace Foujdar was doing.

All misunderstandings of the kind would have been avoided if the Foujdar had sufficiently respected the rule that all orders of H.H. in state matters are to go through the responsible Minister of His Highness, as laid down under sanction of the Madras & Her Majesty's Governments. As it was, it was impossible for me to act otherwise than I did, and what I did even in ignorance of the action of the Foujdar is, I beg to submit, not liable to the objection taken.

I regret also that I have been found fault with upon mere hearsay statements. Had a personal explanation been sought from me before official censure, I would have had an opportunity to inform His Highness

correctly in regard to what took place,
& I am sure H H would have
felt perfectly satisfied -

If my explanation prove
satisfactory as I have reason to
feel confident it will, I hope &
pray that your influence will
not be wanting to relieve me
from the imputation somewhat
hastily cast on me. I think it
will strike H H himself that the
interests of good administration
require that the conduct of H H's
Chief Minister ought not to be
assailed on light grounds -

It is, I own, a great pity that
this unpleasantness has occurred,
to give even the least appearance
of countenance to the Bazaar
rumours wh are afloat to the
effect that parties at the Palace,
interested in the Valia Meleltos Pillay
are striving to create dissensions
between Sovereign & Minister

in view to ~~to~~ make it appear that H H is displeased with the Dewan for bringing the Valia Melelto Pillay to trial. Rumours of the kind, deriving any similitude of countenance or confirmation, may be preju=dicial in several respects. But I trust that His Highness will, from a sense of justice, promptly & graciously exonerate me from the effect of mere misrepresentation, which, however unhappily no throne is free from.

I am
My dear Sir
Yours sincerely
T. Madava Row

J. I. Minchin Esquire
&c &c &c

Memorandum.

In a communication from the Palace Fouzdar, No. 126 dated the 28th Kartigay (that is the 12th Instant), officially addressed to the Dewan by order of His Highness, the Dewan is found fault with to the following effect, namely,

That His Highness regrets much to hear that while Mr Gantz has come here by His Highness' order to plead for the Valia Meleltoo Pillay before the Special Commission, and while it was the Dewan's duty to allow Mr Gantz so to plead, the Dewan has, contrary to His Highness' orders prevented that Barrister from pleading.

2 I feel it due to myself as a matter of justice to submit a most respectful explanation, which I trust will be found not unsatisfactory. Indeed, I am convinced, that, had the facts on which this explanation is based, been before His Highness, His Highness would have entertained a very different impression.

3 I beg to state that I was not aware at all that Mr Gantz came down by His Highness' order. I thought that he came down at the request of his own client.

4 In this state of things, I officially received from the Assistant Resident in charge, copy of an endorsement granted by that authority to the Valia Meletoo Pillay to the effect that Mr Gantz was not admissible in the native Courts, but that he might instruct a native pleader.

This endorsement was passed by Captain Hay who was not in Trevandrum, in accordance with usage, and in ignorance of the permission granted by His Highness.
J.M.

5 This endorsement, I transferred to the Special Committee, as the question of the admissibility of a pleader belonged to them to decide.

* Vide Appendix I [illegible]

6 After Mr Gantz appeared before the Commissioners, I heard for the first time that Mr Gantz had applied to His Highness directly for a postponement of the trial, and that the Palace Fouzdar had by order, directly telegraphed to Mr Gantz that the trial was postponed, though it was always understood that the orders of His Highness in matters of State were issued through His Highness' responsible minister,

and not through the channel of the Fouzdar.
However, it appeared to me that the mere postponement of the trial, as announced to Mr Gantz by the Palace Fouzdar did not necessarily imply that His Highness divested the Judges of the power of deciding the question of the admissibility of a pleader with reference to the existing laws and usages, and other considerations falling within the province of the Court itself.

7 When, therefore Mr Gantz called on me in the evening, and spoke to me on the point, I stated to that gentleman, that personally, I had no objection to his being admitted by the Court; that the question however, was one, which entirely belonged to the Judges to decide; and that I did not think that the mere postponement of the trial as announced to him by the Palace Fouzdar, necessarily implied that the question was taken out of the sphere of judicial action. I alluded also to the opinion of the British Residents against the admission of European Barristers in Native Courts.

8 The next day the Commissioners assembled, and I instructed the prosecution

Mr. Gantz being admitted

prosecutors stated that they

that communication, that

objection to urge against

pearing for the defence, and

entirely with the Judges

the point as one of law.

nctly and emphatically stated.

rt itself fully recognised

as such.

From the foregoing respectful

I trust it will be seen,

no reason to charge the

way the Fouzdar's Communi-

d at the outset, does, with

Contrary to His Highness'

I concur that
when it was k
that H. H. or
had been gra
which consti
the law of Tra
·con, on a ne
question of a
whether a barr
should plead or
there was no p
left to be determ
H. H. naturally
construed this
opposition.

J Mo

2/

11 When the Dewan received the only order addressed to himself on the subject of Mr. Gantz, namely that founded on Mr. Minchin's telegram to His Highness, the Dewan, it need hardly be stated, gave immediate effect to it.

12 Having submitted this full explanation, I humbly but confidently hope that His Highness will be pleased to exonerate me honorably from the charge of having acted contrary to His Highness' orders, which is most painful to me, as it is the very first of the kind in the course of my long service of nearly a quarter of a century, and as it is publicly preferred at a time when I am zealously engaged in the very arduous, and in itself most disagreeable duty of bringing to light the elaborate and nefarious villany practised in His Highness' own Treasury — a time when I stand much in need of His Highness' sympathy and support.

Huzzoor Cutcherry
Trivandrum
13th December 1870

Dewan

True copy
T. Madava Row

[illegible]

The Dewan Sir
Madava Rao's
1st Memo. respecting
the question of
European Counsel
Decr 13th/70.

Telegram

Telegram d 28-2-71 re Madras Council

Copies of the undermentioned Papers were forwarded to Mr. R. A. Dalyell, to the care of Messrs Coutts & Co. London – on the 8 March 1871.

Pros. of Govt. Fin. Dep. 7 March 1868. Nos 15 @ 24.

" ——— " – 2d Nov. 1867 – No 1 & 2

" ——— " – 22d March 1869. Nos 56 @ 60.

" ——— " – 27 Septr. 1870. ~~with Note by Hon. J. D. Sim~~ Nos 46 & 47.

" ——— " – 8 Novr. 1870 – Nos 17 & 18 – ~~with Note Memo by Hon. J. D. Sim~~

From Govt. of India to Madras Govt. – 9/20 Dec. 1870. No 3961.

Pros. of Govt. Fin. Dept. 6 Jany. 1871. Nos 6 & 7.

To Govt. of India – " – 7 – " – No 15.

Minutes by Sir W. Denison – 9 Oct. 1863 – Hon. E. Maltby 19 Oct. 63 and the Hon. T. Pycroft 19 " " on the subject of the constitution of the local Govt.

Despatch to S. State — No 1 of 1863

Sender's Name

Received from ______ Station

at ______ H. ______ M., on the ______ 186 ,

by ______ Signaller.

Transmitted to ______ Station

at ______ H. ______ M., on the ______ 186

by ______ Signaller

Note of delay ______

{ Transit. Receiving. } Telegraph Office. Peon Book No. Telegraph Master

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH DEPARTMEN[T]

MONTHLY No. 14

To (STATION) Madras FROM (STATION) London

Class	Number	Number of words and Cyphers.	Date and Hour tendered for transmission by sender.	Official Instructions.
[illegible]	1204	20	27th 6-5	P.M. via Rus[sia]

(Do. Address.)

Appear before committe[e] in April - Send Governme[nt] instructions and papers, also arguments against abolishing Madras Counc[il]

Sender's Name Dalyell London

Received from ______ Station at 12 H. 25 M., on the 28/2/74 186[ ] by ______ Signaller.

Transmitted to ______ Station at ______ H. ______ M., on the ______ 186 by ______ Signaller

Note of delay ______

Madras ~~Transit.~~ Receiving. Telegraph Office. Peon Book No. [signature] Telegraph Master

N. B.—The message should be continued on the back, should this side not suffice. In this case t[he] Sender's name which is alway[s] the end of the message will of course appear on the back ONLY, and the blank spaces at foot for Si[gna]llers particulars of time of [...] &c., must also be filled in on the back ONLY.

(1)

18th Decr 1870

My dear Sir

You said you did not receive one of my notes to you with a Memo as enclosure, though I had calculated upon its reaching you before your leaving Cochin -

I feel it impor=
=tant that you should be cognizant of the contents of that note & of its enclosure.

I, therefore, hasten
to send you herewith
the copies of the
same wh. I happen
to possess.

I shall feel
obliged by your
returning them after
perusal at your
leisure.

Since I wrote that
note, H. H., through
the Foujdar, has to a
a certain extent
exonerated me

from the charge of having acted contrary to H H's orders. —

I am
My dear Sir
Yours sincerely
T. Madava Row

J. T. Minchin Esqre

102

fr. Madam
Ruete Mr.
München
Dec 18. /70.

Confidential

Trevandr
29th Decem

To

The Right Honorable
Francis Lord Napier

My Lord,

I have respectfully to off
to Your Lordship and to Lady Napier
my warm congratulations on the open
of the New Year, and to wish you a long
of the recurrence of the season in heal
happiness and prosperity - In India
or England Your Lordship will have a
opportunities of working for the benef
of India, and Your L's eminent tale
Indian experience and deep interes
in its welfare will assuredly tend to pr
=mote that end -

I have noticed with much gra
=tification Your Lordship's proceeding
in connection with the coming Internati
Exhibition in England - I trust that

the Arts and Manufactures of the Madr[as]
Presidency will be worthily represen[ted]
With the deepest regret I ha[ve to]
inform Your Lordship that His High[ness]
the Maharajah is completely within [the]
strong influence of a set of the most [un]
=scrupulous intriguers whose efforts, [now]
very near the climax, are directed [to]
the removal of Sir Mádhava Ráu, a[n officer]
who has served his Sovereign Master [for]
13 years with fidelity, ability, assi[duity]
and unwavering integrity, seldom equ[alled]
and never surpassed - Your Lordsh[ip]
will get particulars from our worthy
Resident Mr Minchin - If the Resid[ent's]
hands are ever to be strengthened, an[d]
if the determined will of the Govt is [to]
be unmistakeably evinced it is now.
Let Sir M Rau's conduct be scrutini[zed]
to the utmost, and let every opportu[nity]
be given him to state what he has to [say].
If he be found wrong in any respect [he]
may forfeit the support of Govt - But

can confidently assert that, at the
even, he is loyally and devotedly w
for the true interests of the State an
Sovereign whom he serves - I r
on Your Lordship's wonted interest
zeal in the wellbeing of this State and
love of justice and all that is good
to see that the fruits of malice and
are not meted out to a worthily hon
and honorable Statesman and the
interests of this State imperilled -

I am aware that I have tak
upon myself unwarranted liberty in
writing this to Your Lordship, but my
interest in the State both as a unit in it
and as standing in the position I do, ha
preponderated all considerations of con-
-ventional prudence -

With respectful regard
I am, my Lord,
Your Lordship's very
sincere Friend
Ráma Varmá

Confidential

First Prince of Travancore to Lord Lansdowne. Decr 29 28/90

I have answered the complimentary part of this letter & made no allusion to the rest.

I understand the First Prince to be at this moment a warm partisan of the Dewan. It would have been more prudent if he had not given utterance to any opinion on the matter [illegible] but he [illegible] some interest in it.

N.

I have written to Mr Menick confidentially saying that I have received his letter & laid it confidentially before Govt. whose decision will be made known to him in due time. I have warned him to be very circumspect in the expression of his opinion in the presence of the Rajah & to others and I have told him to see the First Prince privately & tell him I advise him to be very prudent in his behaviour & speech taking no part whatever in this matter but showing a dutiful attitude towards the Maharajah, his sovereign & brother.

I have also asked Mr Menick to report whether there is intrigue in the palace against Sir [illegible] on the part of anyone desiring to get his place - whether the Maharajah is acting under influence or not.

N.

confidential dispatch.

Trivandrum

December 30th 1870

My dear Lord Napier

At the request of H. H. the Maharaja of Travancore, I have the honor to address you as the Head of the Government, on a subject of the greatest importance to His Highness peace of mind. I must premise by troubling you with a brief detail of the Treasury Defalcation case, which is creating so much excitement in Trivandrum, and which has brought to a crisis the long standing want of confidence, which I regret to find existing on the part of His Highness, towards his Minister, Sir T. Madava Row.

During my absence in Madras, a Petition was sent in to the Dewan, stating that there were serious defalcations in

the Treasury, which were due to the Head Shroff, and had been carried out through the complicity of the Head Accountant.

I believe that it has never been usual for the Dewans of Travancore personally to examine the cash in their Treasury, though they are considered responsible for the same. Sir Madava Row has I believe never examined the cash, but he introduced a system of monthly examinations by an officer called here, the Vallaya Meledadi Pilly, in English the Head Accountant.

On receipt of the Petition the Dewan made it over to the Head Accountant for enquiry, having perfect confidence in him, and not having noticed the fact that this officer was charged with complicity in the alleged defalcations.

After some delay the Head Accountant

reported to the Diwan that there was a deficiency of R 10,000, but that the Shroff was a perfectly honest man, and that it would be at once made good.

The Diwans suspicions were at last thoroughly aroused, and he instituted a close personal investigation, which resulted in showing a deficiency of upwards of R 35,000. At the same time various manœuvres were brought to his knowledge, by which the Head Accountant had attempted to conceal the deficiencies in excess of R 10,000. Amongst other machinations, one that was attempted, but not carried out, was to enter in the accounts a payment of R 20,000 to the Palace, for which the receipt of the Palace Cashkeeper was procured, though no such sum was paid.

I believe I am right in saying that the Head Accountant was to a certain extent a trusted public servant of His Highness, in personal communication with him, and hitherto

favoured with His Highness's confidence. When therefore he, and the Shroff were very properly put on their trial by the Divan, they and their friends endeavoured to represent the matter as a vindictive Prosecution by the Minister, to which His Highness was opposed, and in fact had the audacity to assert that His Highness was on their side.

The only error committed by the Divan, but in my opinion a very grave one, is that he acted throughout much as if this assertion of the accused parties were true, did not place confidence in His Highness's sense of justice being sufficient to conquer personal liking, made no attempt to enlist him on the side of the right, and kept important matters concealed from him, as if such concealment were necessary for the success of the Prosecution. I think this will appear plain in the further history of the case.

The accused parties when put on their

MADRAS

trial, before a Commission appointed by His Highness for the purpose, repre-sented to him that owing to the in-fluence of the Prosecution, native Vakeels would not carry out their defence boldly, and that they required the assistance of independent English barristers.

It has not been the custom hitherto to permit Barristers to appear before the Tri-bunals of this State, but actuated by a desire to give the accused all fair assistance, His Highness permitted the employment of Bar-risters for the defence, and gave the neces-sary authority to the Commission for the purpose, through the Palace Fouzdar.

The Dewan must have been perfectly aware that such a permission had been granted on His Highness authority, but because the order was not issued through himself, he acted as if he were unaware of it, and instructed the Sirkar Vakeels to

oppose the admission of Barristers before the Commission.

I was at this time in Cochin, where I was detained a few days on business, and His Highness who felt his dignity was seriously compromised by the opposition made to his orders, Telegraphed to me on the subject. I at once Telegraphed that his orders must be immediately carried out, and at the same time I wrote to the Dewan that if such a step were necessary, Professional assistance should be procured for the prosecution.

I arrived immediately at Trevandrum, and as the Dewan considered that the services of a Barrister for the Prosecution were necessary, His Highness at once gave his consent to this measure; a Barrister was without delay procured from Madras, and the case of the Treasury Defalcation opens today under his charge.

I may state once for all, that on no occasion throughout these trying circumstances, have I found the slightest hesitation on the part of His Highness to take every proper step that the interests of strict justice required for the Prosecution of the Treasury default.

I have alluded in a previous part of this communication, to a receipt for R 20,000 signed by the Palace Cashkeeper, which was intended to be used to conceal the greater portion of the defalcations, a design however which it was not possible to carry out.

I am unaware when, or how, this matter came to the cognizance of the Dewan, or how he succeeded in procuring possession of the Receipt, signed by the Cashkeeper, for money never paid into the Palace. I am of opinion that his proper course, immediately on receiving such information, involving as it did the credit of the Maharajas household, was to lay the whole matter before His Highness, and

relying on his support and authority, to root out the whole iniquitous intrigue

I regret to say that for a long time he kept the whole matter concealed from His Highness, called up Palace servants secretly to his own house for the purpose of carrying out private enquiries, and acted as if he felt that His Highness would use all his power to screen such heinous offenders.

The result was naturally, to double the intrigues and boldness of the subordinate servants in the Palace, who were in the interests of the accused, and a plot was set on foot, the history of which it will be my duty shortly to submit to Government officially. On the Dewan bringing the matter to my notice, I at once wrote to His Highness, informing him of what was believed to have occurred, and requesting him to give every facility to the Dewan for an enquiry in the Palace. My request was at once acceded

3

to, the enquiry took place, and resulted in showing active complicity on the part of two Palace servants, the Cash-Keeper and another, with the Head Accountant, who is now subjected to a State Prosecution.

It was my duty yesterday to lay before His Highness, the memorandum drawn up by the Dewan on this subject, and it was at this interview which lasted three hours, that His Highness laid bare to me his whole feelings with regard to Sir Madava Row.

He informed me that the want of confidence showed in him on this occasion, was a part of Sir Madava Rows systematic behaviour towards himself: that his despotism had become absolutely intolerable: that his studied neglect of his wishes had made him personally odious, and that he could no longer bear it. It is impossible for me to use stronger language than was adopted

by His Highness, when for the first time he threw off all reserve before me, and gave vent to his true feelings.

I of course urged the great services which Sir Madava had done the State, and his great value as an able and honest administrator. The services and the ability were fully acknow-ledged, the honesty was doubted, but the fact of the personal obnoxiousness was insisted on as outweighing all merits. "Sir Charles Trevelyan" His Highness exclaimed "was an able administrator, and was recalled for an act of insubordination: am I to have forced upon me a hateful minister, who treats me as an absolute nullity, and whose whole object has been always his own aggrandisement?"

It was only on the promise that I would at once bring his real feelings to your Lord-ships knowledge, that I obtained His Highness

consent to restrain all outward tokens of displeasure with his Minister, until the close of the present State Prosecution.

The question that arises for the consideration of Government, is whether it is proper to force upon the Maharaja, a Minister, however able, so personally obnoxious? whether it is right that the Maharaja should be a political cypher in the State? whether he should be compelled to retain as Dewan, one whom he believes to be actuated solely by lust of power, and in whom he has lost all confidence?

I need hardly say that I urged on His Highness to wait, and give the Dewan another opportunity at the close of this case, of endeavouring to reinstate himself in His Highness's favour; he declared that it was no passing annoyance; he alluded to many old causes of complaint; he insisted that he could never again place confidence in one,

who had placed no confidence in him. I have only this day recieved from His Highness, the enclosed letter, (forwarded in original,) in which as he states, on full consideration he has recorded briefly the sum of his complaints against his Minister.

It is hardly necessary for me to state how my opinion of Sir Madava Rows merits, as an able, and in my opinion, honest Dewan. The State owes him much, and it will be difficult to find his equal in most respects to replace him. He has however clearly failed in one important particular, he has not secured the confidence or good will of his Sovran, a task which with the kindly character of His Highness would have been easy, had he not preferred Power, to the duty of consulting his masters feelings.

I have induced His Highness to postpone any outward mark of displeasure with

Sir Madava, until this State Prosecution is closed, as the apparent disgrace of the Minister now would have the most injurious effect. I cannot however advise his continued retention in office, acquainted as I now am, with the strong feeling of aversion entertained towards him by His Highness.

Considering the great services he has rendered the State, during a period of fourteen years, I would recommend that an exceptional Pension of R1000 a month be granted to him on his retirement, but that such retirement be compulsory as soon as the excitement attending the present State Prosecution in Travancore is over, and as soon as a fit successor can be found.

I trust I may be shortly favoured,

through Mr. Ellis, with the views
of the Government on this very
important matter, which at His Highness's
urgent request I have laid confidentially
before your Lordship, for the consideration
of yourself and Colleagues -

Believe me
very truly yours

James Innes Minchin
Ag. Resident

The Lord Napier
K. T.

Mr. Minchin to
Lord Napier
Dec. 30th/70.

Rupture between
the Dewan & the
Maharajah.

30th December 1870

My dear Sir

Deeming so clearly and decidedly communicated to you personally my own feelings regarding the Dewan I have simply to repeat the same briefly in the form of this note and as the result of my serious consideration that I freely admit that the Dewan possesses considerable administrative abilities and the results of his general administration

as I have duly appreciated have been advantageous to the State and creditable to himself, but whatever may be the success of his administration, I deeply regret to state that his conduct towards me has been all along very far from agreeable and satisfactory his general policy and domineering spirit having been by all means to augment his own power by undermining my authority and usurping my prerogatives by more and then

proving insubordinate
and disagreeable to
me - the recent glaring
instances of his marked
and repeated want
of confidence, consideration
and subordination
as you are already
aware have only
aggravated my
unpleasant feelings
towards him and I have
strong reason to lose
my confidence in
him - Under these
circumstances and
from my own long
and experience there
being hardly any
hope of a satisfactory

and permanent
amendment in
his conduct towards
me I am decidedly
of opinion as it is my
painful duty to state that
nothing but his actual
retirement from the
service will relieve
me from the truly
painful and awkward
position in which I am
unfortunately placed
at present and contribute
to the peace of my mind

Your sincere friend
Rama Varmah

Memo.

The accompanying letter from Mr Minchin shews that the smouldering resentment of the Maharajah of Travancore towards the Dewan has burst out at last.

It does not appear to me from Mr Minchin's narration that all the wrong in the recent affair was on the side of the Dewan for if the Dewan shewed a want of confidence in his master in several particulars the Maharajah took a resolution and communicated it without the participation of the Dewan - I mean with reference to the employment of Counsel by the Defendants in the pending prosecution. -

But the misunderstandings in the present affair would not come a head

between the Sovereign & his Minister if they stood alone – indeed they would never have occurred if the parties had been on a satisfactory footing. The Maharajah is weary of Sir Madava Row – there is an alienation the most difficult to heal, founded in radical divergencies of character and in a long series of grudges which it might be difficult to enumerate & prove but which have left deep traces in the heart of the Maharajah, at least.

The Dewan is certainly a most able intelligent & even enlightened man but he is ambitious, overbearing, subtle, and full of intellectual pride as well as Caste Pride. The Maharajah

with a great share of goodness and intelligence is hesitating and timid. The stronger mind has no doubt molested the weaker one for many years most grievously and at length the burden has become too intolerable. Sir Madava Row has stretched the cord till it has broken. A Sovereign in the long run however weak will be stronger than the strongest Minister, for he is a Sovereign and will always find men to assist him.

I think it is hopeless to expect that a sentiment thoroughly worn out can ever be restored. No cordiality or confidence can be reproduced between the Maharajah and the Dewan.

It remains with Govt. to decide whether they will for the sake of the character & services of Sir Madava Row keep him in office against the will of the Maharajah and to his private dissatisfaction & distress or whether they will give the Maharajah a new Minister with all the uncertainties & hazards attached to the choice of an untried man or a man only half tried. —

If it was a question between a bad Sovereign & a good Minister I would say maintain the Minister; but here we have a good Sovereign & a good Minister — both good, but incompatible, alienated, disgusted.

Copy

The Maharajah of Travancore to Mr Minchin.

Decr. 30th 1870.

My dear Sir,

Having so clearly (?) and decidedly communicated to you personally my own (?) feelings regarding the Dewan I have simply to repeat the same briefly in the form of this note and as the result of my serious consideration. that I freely admit that the Dewan possesses considerable administrative abilities and the results of his general administration, as I have duly appreciated, have been advantageous to the State, and creditable to himself. But whatever may be the success of his administration I deeply regret to State that his conduct towards me has been all along very far

from agreeable, his general policy and domineering Spirit having been by all means to augment his own power by undermining my authority and usurping my prerogatives and by now & then (?) proving insubordinate and disagreeable to me. The recent glaring instances of his marked and repeated want of confidence, consideration and subordination, as you are already aware, have only aggravated my unpleasant feelings towards him and I have strong reason to lose my confidence in him. Under these circumstances, and from my own long sad experience, there being hardly any hope of a satisfactory and permanent amendment in his conduct towards me, I am decidedly of opinion, as it is my painful duty to state, that nothing but his actual retirement from the Service would relieve me from the truly painful and

awkward position in which I am unfortunately placed ~~at~~ at present and contribute to the peace of my mind.

Your sincere friend

(Signed) Rama Varmah.

Tiviahanazal of
Travancore to
Mr Minchin. —
Dec. 30th /70.

Private and Confidential

Trevandrum

3rd Jany 1870

71

My Lord,

I am favored with your Lord=
=ship's kind letter on the subject of the
coming Exhibition, & need hardly assure
you that I will use my best endeavours
to meet your Lordship's wishes -

I am very much obliged to
your Excellency for the kind wishes wh
you have expressed on the occasion of
the new year. I have always had every
reason to feel assured in my heart that

Your Excellency has felt a sincere interest in my welfare; & hence such good & kind wishes, emanating from a quarter where there is also the power to give effect to them, cannot but be accepted with deep-felt grati=tude.

I regret much that the new year dawns upon me in trouble & anxiety! and I am under the necessity of appealing to Your Lordship's interest in my wellbeing for such aid & support as your Lordship may see fit to accord to me in my difficulties.

I beg to premise that a serious defalcation was lately discovered in the Treasury

at the Capital, it being to no less an amount than 35,000 Rupees. The Criminal prosecution of the parties concerned is in active progress. These parties, however, have strong interest at Court, & have used every possible means to create difficulties. It has ever been, I beg solemnly to assure your Lordship, my anxious study to conciliate H.H. the Maha Rajah's feelings & favor as far as possible. And yet, in the present instance, the friends of the accused have succeeded in causing considerable unpleasantness in His Highness' mind. There is no step that I have taken which is without H.H's permission. Yet, intrigue & misrepresentation have done

their work, I am sorry to say, too successfully.
H.H's mind is, therefore, just at present
under great irritation; &, consequent upon
this, I understand a representation of a
confidential character has gone to your
Excellency expressive of H.H's wish for my
retirement from the post I have held for a
series of years with some honor and
usefulness to the State, in promoting the
welfare of which I have worked hard &
conscientiously as your Lordship is aware.

Mr Minchin could not avoid sending
up the representation in question, as
probably H.H. desired him to do so.
I feel, however, that it is in my power

HEAVENS LIGHT OUR GUIDE

to point out some <u>grave</u> though inadvertent inaccuracies in what has been stated for your Lordship's information, while I can afford satisfactory explanations on several points. I humbly hope therefore that your Excellency will kindly afford me a fair opportunity to rectify the errors & to afford the explanations.

His Highness' good nature is well known to your Excellency. But H.H. is somewhat apt to be impulsive & to indulge a feeling of irritation when circumstances unfortunately combine as they have done in the present case.

If H. H. be only allowed time to reflect
calmly & coolly, I am confident that H.H.
will think better of a Minister who has
been uniformly faithful to the best
interests of the State & of its Ruler —
I trust, therefore, that I am not un=
=reasonable in entertaining a hope
that your Lordship, in your wisdom,
will see fit to allow sufficient time
to H H to take a deliberate view of
matters. When Sir Salar Jung was
once or twice placed in the critical
position in which I am at present —
But the Governor General, when referred to,
allowed the strong passions of the
moment to subside, &, interposing

his powerful & persuasive good offices, brought about a happy reconciliation between the Nizam & his Minister, a reconciliation that was complete & lasting - Similarly, I feel confident that a letter from your Lordship to H.H. in your characteristic dignity, considera=tion, & mild but persuasive advice, will be the means of averting this unhappy crisis. This object effected, I shall, of course, do all I possibly can to carry on the administration to H.H's satisfaction: & I shall do this, if possible, more than ever - If I should still fail unfortunately, (& I hope it will not be the case,) it will be my duty to

submit implicitly to H. H.'s deliberate decision, whatever that decision may be.

I naturally feel much pained that a long & faithful career should be threat=ened with such an unhappy close as indicated in Mr. Minchin's letter to your Lordship. I leave the whole matter to your Lordship's wise and beneficent disposal, & shall abide by any advice that your Lordship may be pleased to give me. I need only repeat my conviction that if time be allowed for the passions of the moment to subside, & your Lordship be pleased to show your interest in my welfare by writing a friendly letter

to H H the Maharajah, any little errors of judgement wh I may possibly have committed through zeal for the public interests will be readily over= =looked in consideration of the not useless services I have been the means of rendering during a series of years.

I beg your Lordship will kindly make allowances for the errors incident to my writing these lines without the advantage of a previous draft, and favor me with a few lines in reply wh

Your Lordship's convenience -

I remain

My Lord

Your Lordship's most

obedt. faithful and

grateful servant

T. Madava Row

To His Excellency

The Right Honorable Francis Lord

Napier K. T.

[illegible]

Sir Madava Row
to Lord Napier
d/3 Dec—71

Circulated for
perusal to
Mr Arbuthnot
+ Mr Sim.

Confidential

Memo

Yesterday afternoon, the Acting Resident Mr Minchin was good enough to show me privately a paper wh that gentleman had submitted to the Madras Govt in regard to the present state of feeling on the part of His Highness the Maharajah towards myself as His Minister, & which feeling, Mr Minchin states, has raised the question of my retirement from the administration.

2. I am extremely thankful to the Acting Resident for his frank communication to me on the subject & for the opportunity thus afforded me to submit a few explanatory remarks for the favorable considera=tion of both the Ag Resident & the Governt he represents.

3. So far as my memory serves me as to the grounds,

wh Mr Minchin states for the unpleasantness wh His Highness unhappily entertains towards me just at present, they appear to be as follow:

(A) That, in the matter of the State-prosecution in progress in connection with the heavy defalcations in the public Treasury, I have, from the first, withheld information from His Highness, making it appear that I was not confident of H.H's cordial support in the performance of the duty of bringing the robbers of the Treasury to justice.

(B) That I actively opposed H.H's orders granting permission to Mr Gantz, Madras High Court Barrister, to appear in the local Court for the defence of the accused in the Defalcation case.

(C) That I made certain enquiries, without H.H's permission, of the Palace Cash keeper regarding

a fraudulent Receipt bearing his signature, & wh Receipt forms evi=
=dence of an attempt on the part of one of the accused parties to conceal a large part of the Treasury defalcation.

4 - I respectfully crave per=
=mission to offer some explanation on each of the foregoing points.

5 As to point marked (A) -
I beg to state that when the defalcation of about 10,000 Rs was first discovered, I immediately reported the circum=
=stance to His Highness -

6 Late in the evening of the 13th Novr last, a further defalcation of about 20,000 Rs was discovered - this was also reported to His Highness. The very next report day, I waited on H. H & so very fully laid before Him all the various & complicated particulars of the affair, that my narrative lasted for no less than three hours -

7 - Similarly, I waited on H H afterwards also, & from time to time submitted all particulars.

8 I have no doubt that H H himself will do me the justice to bear testimony to all this - In the course of my several reports to H H, I not only gave full particulars, but also took care to state how those particulars bore upon the complicity of the parties now undergoing trial.

9 It was about the 12th of Decr (last month) that I obtained through the Police possession of the fraudulent Receipt of the Palace Cash keeper. I admit that I myself did not bring this matter immediately to H H's notice. I was so busy in the Treasury that I could not wait upon H H on the usual report day: it was on this day that the passing of copper coins for Rupees in bags, & the consequent further defalcation

2/

of 4,500 Rs was brought to light in the course of a re-examination instituted in the Treasury, a circumstance which was also forthwith reported to H.H. It took me a little time to ascertain that the Receipt in question was really fraudulent & that the matter was really worth being mentioned to H.H.

gH. A was the 12 mentioned It on the 19th too long

10- I mentioned the matter to H.H on the 19th Decr, & again on the 23d, when H.H was pleased, at about noon, to direct me to institute an oral enquiry at the Palace as regards the Receipt. Accordingly, I again waited at the Palace in the evening & held such enquiry at the Palace Office in the presence of the Fouzdar, the head of the Palace establishment, of the Division Peishcar, of the local Tasildar (Sub Magistrate), the Palace Sumpredy, & others. Some important facts were elicited in this enquiry.

11. It was in the course of this enquiry held under H.H's express commands, that I obtained a clue to discover the grave malpractices of the Palace Sumpredy in regard to the down-right fabrication of documents in the Palace in view to assist the accused & to bring a false and villanous charge against myself, the first minister of H.H. honestly engaged in the arduous task of bringing to trial the perpetrators of the Treasury frauds.

12. Then, again, I waited on H.H. a couple of days afterwards and explained these vile intrigues. H.H. was graciously pleased to again direct that I should pursue the enquiry into the Receipt affair, & also into the suspected fabrication of documents by the Palace Sumpredy. I acted up to H.H's commands; &, in the course of the enquiry, I again had an

opportunity to see His Highness on this very subject. The enquiry was almost completed the same day.

13. The fabrication of documents &c by the Palace Sumpredy was completely proved, & I waited on H H the very next day & reported particulars, promising to commit them to paper with a clear abstract of the evidence supporting the conclusions which had been forced upon me by the evidence against the Cash keeper & Sumpredy.

14. This paper, which I accordingly drew up went to H. H with the advantage of the Resident's observations. The Resident considered it proved beyond doubt that gross intrigues in favor of the parties under trial for the Treasury defalcation & against H H's minister had been practised, & accordingly recommended to H H the immediate dismissal of both the

Palace Cashkeeper & the Sumprathy-

15- Thus, it will, I trust, be seen that I am in a position to show that point (A) has no foundation-

16- As to point marked (B). I emphatically declare that I did not oppose His Highness' orders permitting Mr. Gantz of the Madras High Court Bar to appear for the accused in the Treasury defalcation case- On this subject I submitted a few days ago a memo in extenso to H H & also to the Resident, which memo I trust the Resident will do me the justice to submit to the Madras Government. I will, however, recapitulate a few salient facts.

17- I was not at all aware that H H had given permission to Mr. Gantz to plead in the local Court- After Mr. Gantz appeared before the Court, he himself

3/

came to me & said that he had applied by a telegram from Palamcotta, direct to H H, applying for a postpone=
=ment of the trial, & that the Palace Foujdar had telegraphed in reply to Mr Gantz that the trial was postponed. This Mr Gantz construed into a permission on the part of H H to be admitted to plead in the local Court. I distinctly informed Mr Gantz that I had myself no objection to his appearing for the defence, but that I could not agree with him in construing the Foujdar's telegram postponing the trial, into a permission of H H for him (Mr Gantz) to plead in the local Court contrary to the usages of the local Courts. I further informed him that a similar question had, on some former occasions, arisen, & been decided in the negative; that the Regulations enacted by H H left to the Court

itself

to decide the question of the admissibility of a given pleader; &, finally, that I had just before received from the Dept. Resident in Charge copy of an Endorsement wh that authority had granted to the client of Mr Ganty to the effect that Mr Ganty could not be allowed to appear in person for the defence.

18. I instructed the prosecution the next day to state to the Court, if questioned, that the Prosecution had no objection to Mr Ganty, but that it was left to the Court to act under existing laws.

19. The Prosecutors went to the Court with these instructions. Then, they were for the first time informed that the Court had just then received a Demi Official Communication direct from the Palace Foujdar stating that H H had no objection to Mr Ganty appearing for the defence. The Prosecutors clearly

& emphatically stated to the Court that they fully respected H.H's order, - that they had no objection whatever to Mr. Gantz, - & that it was entirely for the Court to act as it thought best.

20. It was after this that I came to know that such a Demi Official Communication regarding Mr. Gantz had gone direct from the Palace Foujdar to the Court.

21. It was after that again that I myself received an Official Communication from the Palace directing that it be arranged at once that the Court admit Mr. Gantz. This communication was, of course, given effect to promptly.

22. It will thus be clearly seen that I did not, as alleged, oppose H.H's order on the subject of Mr. Gantz.

23. But I beg to invite parti-cular attention to a most signi-ficant fact, which, in itself,

entirely exculpates me - Mr Gantz himself declared in open Court that the Dewan had no objection to his (Mr Gantz') appearing ~~in~~ to conduct the defence - How, then, could it possibly be said that I objected to Mr Gantz & so opposed H H's order?

24. Again, when I explained these matters in extenso to H H, H H himself exonerated me in reply.

25. I need not say more here to show that point (B) has no foundation either -

26. It is a fact, however, that H H had been led, by parties interested in sowing dissensions, to imagine that I had opposed H H's wishes in regard to the admission of Mr Gantz - It was a clear mis-apprehension on H H's part; & the best of mankind are liable to misapprehend matters sometimes -

H.H. was then led to suppose that the Asst. Resident's endorsement disallowing Mr. Gantz was the effect of some secret representation from myself to that authority who was then away from the capital, whereas I had made no representation whatever on the subject! I explained matters fully to H.H., &, as already stated, H.H. exonerated me in reply, from the imputation of having opposed His wishes. There was thus, I thought, an end of the matter, & I am sorry to see it now resumed & urged against me notwithstanding the clear facts of the case, showing beyond all doubt, & from the testimony of even the hostile Counsel ~~itself~~ him self, that I did not object to Mr. Gantz.

27. As to the point marked (C). Having obtained ~~from~~ through the Police the fraudulent Receipt of the Cash keeper, I did send for the

Cash keeper

& show the Receipt to him, when he admitted his signature as he admitted it to H H himself the very next day - Being H H's first Minister, and engaged in detecting the nefarious frauds practised in H H's own Treasury, I thought I was at liberty to send for the Cash keeper and question him on the subject - Let my motives for this action be fairly judged - If, however, I have unconsciously given any offence to H H in thus sending for the Cash keeper & questioning him on the subject, I have no hesitation in expressing to H H my heartfelt regret for it, & offering to H H my many humble apologies - At worst, it was but an error of judgment, the consequence of no other than excessive zeal for the public interests -

28 - I have now, I think, met all the points alleged against me,

& I beg full consideration of my explanations though they may appear tedious. After such consideration, I am confident that it will not be thought that anything has been done by me to call for, or justify the very severe measure contemplated in regard to me.

29. In the transaction of the multifarious business of a State misapprehensions on the part of H.H. might, sometimes, arise, especially when intrigues are set in motion to oppose an honest & resolute effort to bring the powerful robbers of the public Treasury to justice. That the worst intrigues & misrepresentations have been in full play has been proved to the satisfaction of H.H. & the Resident vide Resident's Memo No 911 dated the 31st ultimo. In such a state of things, an upright minister peculiarly stands in need of sympathy & support in

in the performance of a highly difficult, &, as experience has proved, a most dangerous duty. May not the wise & beneficent influence of the British Govemt. be, in this crisis, brought to bear in clearing up unfortunate misapprehensions? I beg to be pardoned for saying that it would be hard — very hard, if that influence should be inactive at such a juncture, & should even be instrumental in accelerating the effects of a temporary irritation arising from a total misapprehension of the real facts and circumstances.

30. His Excellency Lord Napier said to me amid a brilliant assembly at Madras, convened for the purpose of investing the Knights of the Star of India, "the mark of Royal favor which you have this day received will prove to you

5/

"that the attention & generosity of our Gracious Sovereign are not circum=scribed to the circle of Her imme=diate dependents, but that Her Majesty regards the faithful ser=vices rendered to the Princes and people of India beyond the boundaries of our direct administration, as rendered indirectly to Herself and to Her representatives in this Empire" -

Pretending as I do to have performed some such faithful services as His Excellency generously gave me credit for, may I not reasonably hope that His Excellency's Governmt will not allow mere misapprehen=sions, arising out of the performance of an arduous & necessary duty to the State, to nullify the claims to consideration founded in years of incessant & faithful service wh Her Majesty regards as rendered indirectly to Herself?

31- I respectfully request that the Resident will be good enough to submit this Memo at his earliest convenience to the Madras Governt together with my Memo to H.H. already on the Residency records, regarding the admissibility of Mr Gantz, & also the Resident's own Memo on the petition-fraud proved to have been perpetrated by certain interested & intriguing parties attached to the Palace. And I await with equal con=fidence & respect the just verdict of that Governt as well as that of His Highness the Maha=Rajah, who will, I think, feel after the passions & intrigues excited by this public trial shall have fairly passed away, that H.H.'s Minister is blameless & has only done unflinchingly his duty to the State, a duty, the advantages of

which

will long survive the present admi-
-nistration. H H will be even disposed
generously to forgive any little
lapses arising only from an ardent zeal
for the real interests of H H &
H H's country.

32. Only about a couple of
months since,[x] when I was taking
leave of H H to go to Quilon for the
benefit of my health which had
somewhat suffered, H H was most
graciously pleased to earnestly
impress on me the desirableness
of my attending to my health:
& H H generously added that, so long
as I should enjoy the blessing of
sound health, I should continue
H H's chief Minister; a circum-
-stance which shows that the
happy relations which subsisted
between Sovereign & Minister
have been disturbed only very
lately in consequence of misappre-
-hensions unfortunately arising

[x] only about a month before the defalcations were discovered

from the occasion of the state-trial
now in progress -

. 33 - In conclusion, I beg
respectfully to state that, if there
be any other points in Mr. Minchin's
Confidential communication to
Governmt. requiring explanation,
I shall be prepared to offer full
explanations on being favored
with a copy of that communica-
-tion - Without such copy, it is
obviously impossible for me
to meet all the points exhaustively,
as I perused Mr. Minchin's com-
-munication wh took me by
surprise, under a sense of
great pain, & cannot remember
every part of it -

T. Madava Row
Dewan

Trevandrum
4th Jany 1871

To J. I. Minchin Esquire
&c — &c

To Madras
Recd 2 Memo.
Jany 4th/71

2

In this case I would say sacrifice the Minister. We need not despair of getting another. I fear he will not be so clever but he may be in some respects more congenial to our Govt. as well as more agreeable to the Rajah.

As at present advised I would say that some time hence, when this trial is over and all is quiet, Sir Madava Row should be told to resign and that he should be permitted to depart with honor. My opinion is founded not only in what Mr Minchin says but in what I have personally observed of the Dewan and of the Rajah. It is better that they should part

soon with mutual respect than that their feelings should be exasperated by longer communication which would simply be perpetual collision. They would fall out publicly some day or other, the scandal could not be smothered, the Maharajah & his party would make the place too hot for the Dewan & the latter would be driven out with a greater sacrifice of dignity.

N.

Lord Lisburne's
remarks on Mr.
Meinchia's letter
of Dec. 3d 1770.

should have thought that the proper course for the President would have been to report to the Maharajah that he should send for the Minister & explain the views & wishes of the former - the causes of his Dis-satisfaction & in part to use endeavours to bring about a reconciliation - or the means for the submission to the Sovereign by the Minister - Especially as he has not taken in some measure perhaps caused the Estrangement by uniformly premising the Minister as the Prime instead of the secondary agent. Sir M. R. has had no opportunity of explaining his conduct in this particular matter - or of tendering apologies & promising submission. He has no doubt felt that his Sovereign did not like him but may have been ignorant of the extent of the dislike - & consequently done not about the critical state of affairs required - The

devotion to his duties & the interests of the Country exemplary & unflagging – in short the satisfactory condition of the State is his work. He is not perfect but I know not where his equal for his present post is to be found: all things considered.

The present breach is one that, by judicious handling, might I think be partially healed. The Maha-rajah's complaint is that Sir M. R. acts as if he, the Maharajah, were a cypher. I doubt not that, if admitted of this & warned of the consequence of immediate & marked change, the Mi-nister would meet his Master's wishes

the retention of a particular person as Minister in dispensible – and the ~~&~~ unacceptability of the Minister ~~not~~ being due to personal causes alone. ~~[illegible]~~

But I should regard the removal of Sir Madava Row as so serious a loss to His Highness, his Country & people, that I would instruct the Resident to use his utmost influence to dissuade His Highness from adopting so lamentable a measure. That Sir M. R. has his faults is merely to say that he is human. ~~[illegible]~~ his administration has been eminently successful. his

I agree with His Excellency that if the Maharajah – after due consideration of such advice as the Resident, under our instructions, may give him – and after calm deliberation, wishes for the removal of his Dewan, we are not entitled to with-hold our as-sent – He is a Sovereign in his own territories – and we cannot claim to force on him a Minister who is per-sonally obnoxious to him – there being nothing in His Highness' Disposition conduct or relations with us to under

present Explosion may clear the atmosphere. We must meantime wait for the Maharajah's coming communication & [it] seems to me to be right to be deemed brief from the Maha[rajah] except that we are deeply concerned & are carefully considering the matter. S.O.S.

I should regard with great regret the retirement of Sir Madava Row from the office which he has so ably filled, and so far as I can form a judgment from the statements contained in the Acting Resident's letter, I should say that the case which has given rise to the Maharajah's present displeasure with his Minister is not a case in which the Governt would be justified in interfering in any way to the prejudice of Sir Madava Row. It is clear that there has been fraud on the part of at least one of the Palace servants, and I think it not improbable that there has been intrigue in the Palace agst. Sir Madava Row, and that influences which do not appear, have been brought to bear upon the Maharajah, and have aggravated his unfriendly feelings tow

[...] does not give me a favorable impression of the judgment with which he is treating or is likely to treat this delicate affair. He appears to have made up his mind that the Mulhara Row must be got rid of and goes so far as to name the amount of the pension which should be assigned to him on his retirement. His making such a recommendation without placing upon record any explanation from the Mulhara Row's version of his conduct in the matter appears to me most ill judged.
I understand that His Excellency the Governor is likely to receive a written statement of the late occurrences from the Mulhara Row. When this arrives, we shall perhaps be in a better position to form an opinion of the Dewan's conduct than we are at present, [...] we can then determine as the [...] of the reply to be sent to the [...] Resident [...] but I may not [...]

are very hard & for my part

[illegible] be no [illegible] & [illegible]

entering seriously upon the question of

the relations of the Nizam & his

[illegible] until after Sir Salar Jung's

return.

B. F.

5th January /76

26

Mr. Arbuthnot's
Remarks on
Mr Murchison's
letter to Lord
Raglan. —

Confidential — Trivandrum. Jany 5th
1871.

My dear Ellis,

As I informed you by Telegram yesterday, I considered it but fair and right to show confidentially to Sir Madava Row, a copy of the letter addressed by me to Lord Napier, at the urgent request of the Maharaja.

I now forward a Memorandum drawn up in reply by Sir Madava, together with the Telegrams I received from His Highness on the subject of the opposition made to the Barristers appearing for the defence, and a Memorandum drawn up at the time by Sir Madava on this special subject. As all these are confidential papers, not sent in the Office, and of which I have no copies, may I ask for their return when no longer required?

I trust it may be understood that I

am making no formal accusations against Sir Madava on my own account. I have been compelled to represent the strong feelings entertained against him by H. H. the Maharajah and have mentioned what appear to me the errors in his late proceedings, which viewed perhaps through a distorted medium, have brought to a crisis His Highness's long standing feeling of dislike for his person, and impatience at his domineering ways.

After reading Sir Madava Row's statement now submitted, I have carefully read again my own letter to Lord Napier, of which I think but one sentence requires modification, the one bearing on the Dewan's alleged opposition to the appearance of the Barrister for the defence. Sir Madava states distinctly that he was unaware

that H. H. had given permission for the accused to employ Barristers, and I am bound to accept this statement. It only shows how completely the Dewan must have kept himself aloof from H. H. to be unaware of so notorious a fact, and is in itself a proof of what I allege to be the Dewans grave error throughout these Proceedings, of not having acted cordially in concert with H. H.

His want of confidence in himself forms the gravamen of the charge brought against the Dewan by H. H, and while Sir Madava represents his whole proceedings as actuated by the highest sense of duty, he forgets that his first duty is to act as the servant of the Maharaja, and not as if H. H. were the head of a rival faction.

On my advice Sir Madava has determined to omit from the Prosecution all reference to the fraudulent Palace Receipt.

This receipt was never used; its connection with the case it would be impossible to prove, and it appears to me of no weight for the Prosecution. With this offering to H. H's amour propre he proposes to throw himself at H. Hs feet, and endeavour to win back the good graces he has lost.

I need hardly say that no one will be more pleased than myself, if H. H can be appeased, and so efficient a Dewan continue in Office. On the other hand I expect no such result. When I informed H. H that I had shown the Dewan my confidential report, and that his only hope lay in the effect of time, & his own submission, removing H. Hs severe feelings towards him, the Maharaja showed in reply no symptoms of placability, and I think it right that that reply should be submitted to Government, as the Dewan naturally represents the Maharajas present feelings, as a mere gust of passing passion.

Believe me Yours very sincerely

James Innes Minchin

[illegible] expression [illegible]

Confidential

3rd January

From Maharaja to Ag. Resident 1871

My dear Sir

Many thanks to your kind note, and you were quite right in drafting the memorandum so that the Queen may be prepared to meet the approaching

unavoidable
crisis. I fully
appreciate the
Dewans wisdom
in his feeling
that it will be
impossible for
him to remain
here in his present
position under the
present state of
my feelings toward
him and, as in
the hope of ...

Confidential

3rd January 1871

From Maharaja to Acting Resident.

My dear Sir.

Many thanks to your (sic) kind note and you were quite right in adopting the course indicated therein so that the Dewan may be prepared to meet the approaching unavoidable crisis. I

fully appreciate the
Dewan's wisdom in his feeling
that it will be impossible
for him to remain in his
present position under
the present state of my
feelings towards him, and,
as regards the hope of
a change in my views,
I have simply to state
that what I spoke and
wrote to you on the
subject being after the

most deliberate consideration

and also the necessity of

going to such an extreme

being seriously felt by

me from a long time

Entirely on the Dewan's

driving me to such a

most painful necessity

even after so many

friendly admonitions

and warnings I will

have no reason whatever

to alter that decided

opinion which is already

make known to you. –

Yours sincerely
Rama Varmah

(True copy)
J. H. Gaustin.
Pte. Secy.

The Maharajah
of Travancore
to Mr.
Minchin
Janr. 3. /71

Encl
in Sect. St. letter
2 [illegible]
[illegible]

strong in my views,
I will simply to
state that — what
I expressed and wrote
to you on the
subject — coming
after the most
deliberate consideration
and also the necessity
of yielding to such
an outcome, being
seriously felt — Having
been a long time
intimately in the Dominion

driving me to such
a most painful
necessity when so many often
friendly
admonitions
warnings until
I will
have no measure
whatever to alter
that decided
which is already opinion
made known to me
Yours sincerely
Rama Sivasundara

Memo

I have already stated that there is reason to suppose that the Valia Melaloothoo Pillay attempted to use a Receipt of the Palace Cashkeeper for twenty thousand British Rupees to conceal the defficit of an equal amount in the Huzzoor Treasury but that the attempt failed in consequence of my having divested the Valia Melaloothoo Pillay of the charge of the treasury accounts, and put those accounts in charge of another officer not open to be tampered with by the Valia Melaloothoo Pillay.

2 I heard of this attempt shortly after it was made, & I directed Police officials to be on the look out for evidentiary facts & circumstances. These officials did their duty. And I got possession of the Receipt.

3 It was necessary in the interest of

of the prosecution to make some enquiries about this Receipt. I accordingly sent for the Palace cashkeeper whose signature it appeared to bear. He, it seems, was afraid to come to me lest his official superiors at the Palace should be displeased with him for communicating any information to the Dewan. He, however, was at last induced to come & see me very privately. I showed him the Receipt. He examined the signature. I offered him spectacles, but he said he could do without that aid. He then in an unqualified manner admitted to me that the signature which the Receipt bore was his own. This admission was made in the presence of persons who happened to be with me at the time. He, however, said that he did not know in whose handwriting the body of the Receipt was. He added

that he had not granted such a Receipt, but possibly it was one of two blank signed Receipts which he had entrusted to a Palace clerk of the name of Cunnoo Pillay, & which Cunnoo Pillay had not accounted for. I told him to speak the truth without fear in case he had assisted the Valia melaoothoo Pillay with such a Receipt. He denied it and adhered to his first statement. I thought that, if he had so assisted, he was not likely to confess it, & so sent him away.

4. I heard that the very next day, he got alarmed at my possession of the Receipt which admittedly bore his signature, &, therefore, he waited on His Highness personally, represented correctly what had passed the previous day between myself & him, and begged His Highness to compel

Cunnoo Pillay to account for the alleged two Receipts which he (the Cashkeeper) said were missing. I also heard that the Cashkeeper presented to the Palace a written Petition to the same effect.

5 I further heard that, in consequence of this Petition, Cunnoo Pillay's box & accounts were sealed up apparently to ascertain if they contained any of the Receipts which the Cashkeeper said were missing, and which he said would account for the one in the possession of the Dewan.

6 I was rather glad that the Cashkeeper had voluntarily reduced to writing his admission to me of his signature, and his story by way of explanation.

7 But shortly afterwards, I heard that the Petition presented by the Cashkeeper containing those

statements was quietly withdrawn or suppressed, and another Petition omitting those statements, was substituted, bearing however the same date as the one withdrawn or suppressed, and adding that when I showed him the Receipt, he denied the signature, but that I tried to induce him to bear false testimony against the Valia Malaloothoo Pillay &c.!

8 I suspected this to be the doing of the Valia Malaloothoo Pillay in collusion with the Palace Sumbrithy who, I had heard from several sources, had completely identified himself with the interests of the Valia Malaloothoo Pillay.

9 This suspecion became strengthened from certain partial but almost casual disclosures made in the course of an oral enquiry which I held at the Palace a few days ago under sanction of his highness, the enquiry being chiefly

directed to ascertain particulars in regard to the Receipt I have. From the evidence of several Palace servants, I was led to think that the Receipt was genuine & was evidence of a fraud really attempted. I did not however extend the enquiry to the fraud then suspected in regard to the Petition of the Cashkeeper, as such enquiry would require a careful examination of the records of the Palace & the careful examination in writing of several Palace servants, an examination for which I should have had special permission from his Highness.

10 Soon after, I came to understand that not only was the Petition fraud actually perpetrated in view to save the Valia Melathoothilly and the Palace Cashkeeper, but that the plan of the Valia Melaloothoo Pillay & his Palace friends was to involve me at the same time in a charge

of Subornation of perjury & thus as they thought turn the tables against one who was determined to bring to justice the perpetrators of the treasury defalcations. In pursuance of this attrociously conceived plan, the V.M.P. actually preferred an application to the Palace for a Copy of the Cash Keeper's Petition which had been designedly prepared and substituted for the harmless one which had been at first preferred. And to crown the enormity & audacity of this plan, it seems that the Palace friends of the V. M. P. seriously but most artfully proposed to His Highness that His Highness should transfer the Petition by a <u>direct</u> order to the special Commission for enquiry. I was even informed that such an order to the special Commission was actually under preparation by the Valia M. Pillay's Palace friends.

" With all due confidence in His Highness' judgment & justice, I confess I felt some uneasiness lest the artful proposition of the V. M P's friends should be acted upon by His Highness

in a possibly unguarded moment, especially when they had already induced His Highness to send direct to the Commission some of the V. M. P's Petitions to the Palace, not remarkable for truth. The success of the plan conceived by the V. M. P. & his friends would, of course, have been great injustice done to me & would have created a great public scandal, while it would certainly have compromised His Highness' own dignity & position.

12 With these sentiments I thought it very desirable, indeed indispensably necessary, to make a firm attempt to disclose to His Highness the great fraud which I had reason to suspect had been practised in regard to the destruction of the first Petition of the Palace Cash keeper & the substitution of another in its place. Accordingly I sought the aid of both His Highness the Maha Rajah & of the British Resident. I obtained that aid fully, and His Highness most kindly permitted me to institute a

thorough enquiry granting access to any records I should wish to refer to. I am deeply grateful to His Highness for the means thus accorded.

13 Accordingly, on the 2[?]th Instant, I made an enquiry, associating with myself the Dewan Peishkar of this Division & the Fouzdar of the Palace. The Tassildar was also present. Myself & the two officers above named formed in fact a little Committee.

14 It was a very great advantage that His Highness' Commands were so promptly given; for, the parties examined had had no time whatever to communicate with each other in regard to the evidence given. Hence, the evidence elicited has all the guarantee of correctness arising from the circumstance of its coming from sources, free from all suspecion of Collusion.

15 The enquiry was almost concluded the same day and I append to this, abstracts of the Evidence recorded. To these I respectfully invite careful consideration.

16 I will now state briefly the chief of the points which the evidence has, I think, established beyond all

reasonable doubt.

Points Established

(a) The Palace Cashkeeper waited on His Highness & personally represented that he was the previous day called by the Dewan & shown a Receipt for 20,000 Rs; that the Receipt bore a signature which was his (the Cashkeeper's); that he accordingly admitted the signature to the Dewan; and so on. His Highness directed him to state the same in a Petition and to present it. His Highness Himself perfectly remembers these particulars, and His Highness kindly said so to me on the 27th Instant.

(b) A Petition (which for convenience may be called (A)) was accordingly drawn up for the Cashkeeper on 28th Kartigay / 12th December & signed by him.

(c) This Petition (A) stated the fact that the Cashkeeper had admitted to the Dewan the genuineness of the signature borne by the Receipt shown him by the Dewan; & it further gave an explanation on the part of the Cashkeeper to the effect that two of his Receipts, which he had given to Palace Accountant Cunnoo Pillay

were missing; & the Receipt shown by the Dewan might be one of these missing Receipts, some enemy of the Cashkeeper having probably carried it to the Dewan.

(d) This Petition (A) was presented by the Cashkeeper to the Palace immediately after it was drawn up, & was signed by him.

(e) In reference to the allegation in the Petition that the Receipt in the Dewan's possession may have been one of the two alleged missing Receipts, the Fouzdar ordered the sealing up of Cunnoo Pillay's box &c. & the order was carried out.

(f) The V. M. P. was informed of the Petition (A) having been presented by the Cashkeeper to the Palace & also of the particulars of the Petition.

(g) The Petition (A) was kept unregistered, as shown by the Petition Register.

(h) The Petition (A) was not entered in the Collective Memoranda usually drawn up for Report to His Highness,

as shown by those Memoranda.

(i) The Petition (A) was orally reported to His Highness on the $\frac{29^{th}\ Kartigay}{3^{d}\ December}$.

(j) On the $\frac{1^{st}\ Margaly}{14^{th}\ December}$ His Highness sent for Govinda Pillay head Accountant of the Palace & questioned him regarding the Petition.

(k) As the Petition contained some accusation against a certain Palace servant, this servant asked for a copy of the Petition on the $\frac{2^{d}\ Margaly}{15^{th}\ December}$ though he failed in obtaining it.

(l) Another Petition (which may be called B) was drawn up for the Cashkeeper on the $\frac{3^{d}\ Margaly}{16^{th}\ December}$ but antidated namely $\frac{28^{th}\ Kartigay}{12^{th}\ December}$.

(m) The Petition (B) thus drawn up and antidated was substituted for Petition (A) which was destroyed.

(n) Then Petition (B) thus substituted was entered in Petition Register & numbered on the $\frac{3^{d}\ Margaly}{16^{th}\ December}$.

(o) Petition (B) omitted two important points which Petition (A) had contained, the omission being made at the request of the Cashkeeper.

(h) The V. M. P. was informed of the Petition (B) having been substituted for Petition (A).

(g) The brother of the V. M. P. carried & delivered to Palace Sumbritty an application for copy of the Petition (B) already substituted for Petition (A).

17. From the foregoing brief statement of points, it will be plain that a fraudulent substitution was made in the Palace records, in view to deceive His Highness, to save the Cashkeeper, to benefit the V. M. P. and to bring a false charge against the Dewan. The abstract of the Evidence appended will make the matter more plain still.

18. The Offence, which is a grave one & liable to severe penalties being proved, it remains to be considered by whom it was committed.

19 The Palace Sumbritty is the Official who I am convinced has been taking the most active part in the V. M. P.'s affairs. In his sole custody are all the Records connected with them. He admits that he received the Cashkeeper's

Petition at the time the ~~first~~ Petition is proved to have been presented; & as at that time the second Petition was not in existence, the Petition received by him cannot but have been the first Petition. He admits no one was present when he received the Petition. He says that he himself kept the Petition in his own box & did not show it to any one. He delayed entry of the Petition in the Petition Register for several days till the day on which the second Petition was drawn up & ~~presented~~ substituted, when alone the entry in the Register appears. The Petition, though much more important than other Petitions entered in the Collective Memoranda usually prepared for submission to His Highness was not entered there. It was he that received from the V. M. P.'s brother an application for copy of the second Petition. And, what is equally extraordinary & most significant, a set of questions

for the Cross Examination of one of the principal witnesses for the prosecution against the V. M. P. are found in his box! And in whose handwriting are these adverse interrogatories drawn up? In the handwriting of no other than the V. M. P. himself And yet he asserts that he never before saw these papers which were in his own box under his own lock & key. He asserts that he saw them only when I saw them!

20 I have not reduced to writing the statements of many persons who have repeatedly seen the V. M. P. & this man in close concert during successive nights. Can any doubt remain of the authorship of the fraud in regard to the Petitions of the Cashkeeper after the disclosure of the body of circumstances above stated?

21. It will also be evident how the facts disclosed, tell against the Cashkeeper. He clearly & unreservedly admitted to me the genuineness of his signature attached to the Receipt

in my possession - When he made this admission to me, there were three witnesses - Then he repeated the same admission to several Palace officials - He repeated the same admission to His Highness himself as clearly remembered by His Highness. He embodied the same admission in a petition which he addressed to His Highness at His Highness' command - It was in consequence of this reiterated admission by the Cashkeeper & his concomitant explanation, that Cunnoo Pillay's box was sealed up at the Palace to test the correctness of the explanation - The explanation has turned out false - But what is much more telling against him is his deliberate & daring fraud perpetrated on His Highness himself, in destroying his first Petition, drawing up another to suit his own purposes & charging His Highness' Prime Minister with subornation of perjury, antidating it & surreptitiously substituting it - I may add that a whole host of

Palace Employes have deposed to the identity of the Cashkeeper's signature to the Receipt I hold -

22 In my humble judgment there is abundant ground to prosecute criminally both the Cashkeeper & the Palace Simbuthy - Against both these the evidence weighs with obviously great force - I humbly hope that His Highness will see fit to dismiss these from the service at once, & to direct that they be brought to trial - His Highness as Sovereign of the Country is the Fountain of Justice - His Highness own Minister, one who, as His Highness well knows, has been serving long & faithfully, and who claims some share of Credit in having raised the Character of the Country's administration higher than that of any Native State in Hindoostan, now approaches His Highness with Confidence, and seeks gracious redress for the audacious attempt made by two petty Palace Servants to destroy the high Character which it

has been the hard work of the best part of his life, to earn, & which he prizes, and ought to prize beyond every thing else. I need not submit that I feel deeply pained at the daring intrigues which are being carried on, and at a time when I am devoting my best energies to the arduous task of bringing to justice the powerful perpetrators of the treasury frauds. I hope His Highness will, with His usual kindness, pardon me if I submit plainly that unless such nefarious practices are put down with the utmost severity, serious difficulties cannot but be experienced in maintaining unimpaired the high reputation which His Highness' Government has acquired for probity and determination to do its duty.

Trevandrum }
29th Decr 1870 }

T. Madava Row
Dewan

81

From
The Dewan of
Travancore

D/ 29th }
R/ 31st } Decr. 1870.

Memo: regarding an enquiry held by him into certain alleged intrigues carried on by two subordinate servants in the Palace.

Roseburn Papers
to be returned to the
Resident.

No 1411.

Wrote Memo with copies to H. H. the Maharajah & copy to Memo. to D of T. 31st Decr./70.

Copies of these & that of the Ag. Resdt. Memo: to Govt. for infn.
5th Jany/71.

Private

Trevandrum
4th Jany 1871

My dear Sir,

To save the post, I had yesterday to address you a brief & hasty note - Today I beg to enclose copy of an explanation I have thought it necessary to send to Mr Minchin for early submission to the Madras Govt. This explanation has necessarily been drawn up in haste, & I hope Govt will therefore be pleased to view its frame with indulgent consideration of this fact -

Mr Minchin will, I presume, send in officially to Govt this explanation of mine in a day or two - Meanwhile, I shall feel grateful to you for submitting the accompanying copy to His Excellency Lord Napier for his Lordship's perusal & considera=tion in connection with Mr Minchin's confidential com=munication -

My explanation, for want of a copy of Mr Minchin's comn, may in some respects, be incomplete. I will beg Mr Minchin

for a copy, & I feel I can rely on his characteristic & ardent love of fair play to comply with my request. If, on obtaining a copy, I find there are in it any points of importance wh have not been met in the accompanying memo, I will send in a supplemental explanation.

In any circumstances, I do hope that Govt will do me the justice ~~of~~ to afford me full opportunity to explain clearly any part of my conduct which wd require explanation in the judgment of Govt; & I hope also

that Govt. will ~~suspend~~ see fit to suspend its verdict till after consideration of such defence as I may have it in my power to offer - You, Sir, have had some intimate experience of the action of party spirit & faction in native states, & must, therefore, be in a position to assist in preventing honest & upright men being victimized - His Excellency the Governor kindly informed me when I was at Madras last that you are one of those who take a real interest in my welfare.

I trust, therefore, that you will not grudge some trouble in facilitating justice to services rendered long, zealously, & with the utmost probity — I feel fatigued as I have been pen in hand about eleven hours today & am conse=quently unable to say more than that I rely largely on your kindness & consideration —

I am

My dear Sir

Yours sincerely

T. Madava Row

The Honble
R. S. Ellis Esqre C.B.
&c &c

Sir Madam
Rec'd to Mr
Ellis
Jan 4 /71

Copy of the Resident's memo to H.H. -

Resident's Office
Trevandrum 31st Decr /70

No. 911.

Memorandum

The Acting British Resident has the honor to submit to His Highness with his observations, a memorandum drawn up by the Dewan regarding an enquiry held by him with His Highness' permission into certain alleged intrigues carried on by two subordinate Servants in the Palace.

2. The Dewan considers it proved that the Palace cash-keeper having first acknowledged to His Highness that he had confessed to the Dewan the genuineness of his signature to a receipt for Rupees 2000 alleged to have been paid into the Palace such false receipt having been concocted for the purpose of concealing the Treasury defalcation, and having

given for presentation to His Highness a Petition to that effect with a view of Shielding the Head Accountant in the matter of the defalcation, caused that Petition to be withdrawn, and substituted in its place another in which the acknowledgment of his statement to the Dewan was with=
=drawn - The Dewan considers it proved that this substitution was carried t out by the Palace Sum=
=praty, and he recommends that both these servants be dismissed, and subjected to a criminal prosecution -

3. Upon the evidence recorded by the Dewan, there exists clear legal proof of the above allegations but when the parties who gave their evidence so clearly before the Dewan, were brought before His Highness, and the Acting Resident on the 29th instant at the Palace they retracted those statements in toto, declaring that they had only made them through fear of the Dewan and in reply to his leading questions.

Although

Although the Acting Resident is of opinion that the statements made by these persons before the Dewan were in the main true and their retractions false, he feels that no reliance can be placed on such evidence, and cannot therefore recommend a criminal prosecution.

4 There are however facts connected with the case, independent of oral testimony which leave no doubt on the Acting Resident's mind that both the Palace cash-keeper and Sumprety were engaged in intrigues of the boldest description for the purpose of assisting the Valia Melaloothoo Pillay in his defence.

5 As regards the cash-keeper, His Highness himself recollects his original acknowledgment that he had not denied the genuineness of his signature to the fraudulent receipt when taxed with it originally by the Dewan. The Cash keeper at the time endeavoured

to

to account for the receipt by stating that he was in the habit of entrusting a Palace Accountant Kannoo Pillay with blank receipts signed and that one of these must have been procured and made use of for the Dewan -

6 Upon this statement the box of Kannoo Pillay was at once secured by the Palace Foujdar and on examination no such receipts were found -

7 Here is an actual fact that arose on the first presentation of the Petition, on account of matter contained in it, while in the Petition now on His Highness' records there is no matter which could call for such action -

8 As the Cash Keeper now denies that he ever accepted the genuineness of his signature and founds on such denial a charge of subornation of perjury against the Dewan, while originally his admission to the Dewan was acknowledged to His Highness, the acting Resident is convinced

that

that His Highness will mark his sense of such shameless intrigues by at once dismissing from his service a person guilty of such conduct.

9. As regards the Sampretty, this Palace Servant was in charge of the cash keeper's original petition from the time of its being presented and the substitution of one petition for another which the Acting Resident fully believes was effected could have been managed only by means of his active connivance. Giving him the benefit of every doubt on this point, owing to the unsatisfactory nature of the oral testimony, there is one fact that admits of no dispute. There was found in his office box a paper of questions in the hand writing of the Valia Melaloothoo Pillay intended for the cross-examination of one of the Chief witnesses for the Prosecution in the Treasury Defalcation case, which he asserts ~~to~~ he had never seen; which he says

must

must have been placed in his box by the brother of the Valia Melaloothoo Pillay five days previously, when he made an application for a copy of the cash keeper's petition and of the existence of which he was ignorant.

10 The Acting Resident considers it impossible for His Highness to overlook gross lying of this description on the part of a Palace Servant, there cannot be the slightest doubt that this Samprety has identified himself with the Valia Melaloothoo Pillay, the subject of a State Prosecution for the purpose of thwarting the Dewan, and the Acting Resident is confident that His Highness will not countenance such proceedings on the part of a Palace Subordinate. It is his duty respectfully to recommend to His Highness the dismissal of the Palace Cash keeper and Samprety, with a view of shewing by this decided

action

action that Her Highness will not permit the Palace to be made the place for carrying on base intrigues.

(Signed) J. I. Minchin
Acting Resident.

True copy
T. Madava Row
Dewan

Confidential

Memo.

Yesterday afternoon the Acting Resident Mr Minchin was good enough to show me privately a paper which that Gentleman had submitted to the Madras Government in regard to the present state of feeling on the part of His Highness the Maha Rajah towards myself as His Minister, and which feeling Mr Minchin states, has raised the question of my retirement from the administration.

2. I am extremely thankful to the Ac. Resident for his frank communication to me on the subject, and for the opportunity thus afforded me to submit a few explanatory remarks for the favorable consideration of both the Acting Resident, and the Government he represents.

3. So far as my memory serves me as to the grounds which Mr Minch[in] states for the unpleasantness which His Highness unhappily entertains towards me just at present, they

appear to be as follows:
(A) That, in the matter of the state-prosecution in progress in connection with the heavy defalcations in the public Treasury, I have from the first withheld information from His Highness, making it appear that I was not confident of His Highness' cordial support in the performance of the duty of bringing the robbers of the Treasury to justice.
(B) That I actively opposed H. H's orders granting permission to Mr. Gantz, Madras High Court Barrister, to appear in the local court for the defence of the accused in the defalcation case.
(C) That I made certain enquiries without His Highness' permission, of the Palace Cash Keeper regarding a fraudulent receipt bearing his signature, and which receipt forms evidence of an attempt on the part of one of the accused parties to conceal a large part of the Treasury

defalcation.

4. I respectfully crave permission to offer some explanation on each of the foregoing points.

5. As to point marked (A). I beg to state that when the defalcation of about 10,000 Rs was first discovered, I immediately reported the circumstance to His Highness.

6. Late in the Evening of the 13th Novr last, a further defalcation of about 20,000 Rs was discovered. This was also reported to His Highness. The very next report day, I waited on H. H. and so very fully laid before Him all the various and complicated particulars of the affair, that my narrative lasted for no less than three hours

7. Similarly, I waited on His Highness afterwards also, and from time to time submitted all particulars.

8. I have no doubt that His Highness himself will do me the justice to bear testimony to all this. In the

Course

course of my several reports to H. H., I not only gave full particulars, but also took care to state how those particulars bore upon the complicity of the parties now undergoing trial.

9. It was about the 12th of December (last month) that I obtained through the Police possession of the fraudulent receipt of the Palace Cash Keeper. I admit that I myself did not bring this matter immediately to H. H's notice. I was so busy in the Treasury that I could not wait upon His Highness on the usual report day: it was on this day that the passing of copper coins for Rupees in bags, and the consequent further defalcation of 4,500 Rupees was brought to light in the course of a re-examination instituted in the Treasury, a circumstance which was also forthwith reported to His Highness. It took me a little time to ascertain that the receipt in question was really fraudulent, and

2/

and that the matter was really worth being mentioned to H. H..

10. I mentioned the matter to H. H. on the 19th December, and again on the 23rd, when H H was pleased, at about noon, to direct me to institute an oral enquiry at the Palace as regards the Receipt - Accordingly, I again waited at the Palace in the evening, and held such enquiry at the Palace Office in the presence of the Foujdar, the head of the Palace Establishment, of the Division Peishcar, of the local Tassildar (Sub-Magistrate), the Palace Sumprethy and others. Some important facts were elicited in this enquiry -

11. It was in the course of this enquiry held under H H's express command that I obtained a clue to discover the grave malpractices of the Palace Sumprethy in regard to the downright fabrication of documents in the Palace in view to assist the accused

accused and to bring a false and villanous charge against myself, the first Minister of H. H., honestly engaged in the arduous task of bringing to trial the perpetrators of the Treasury frauds.

12. Then, again, I waited on His Highness a couple of days afterwards and explained these vile intrigues. H. H was graciously pleased to again direct that I should pursue the enquiry into the Receipt affair, and also into the suspected fabrication of documents by the Palace Sum-prethy. I acted up to H. H's commands; and, in the course of the enquiry I again had an opportunity to see His Highness on the very subject. The enquiry was almost completed the same day.

13. The fabrication of documents &ca by the Palace Sumprethy was completely proved, and I waited on H. H the very next day and reported particulars, promising to commit them to paper with a clear abstract of the evidence

supporting the conclusions which had been forced upon me by the evidence against the Cash-keeper and Sumprethy.

14. This paper, which I accordingly drew up went to H. H with the advantage of the Resident's observations. The Resident considered it proved beyond doubt that gross intrigues in favour of the parties under trial for the Treasury defalcation, and against H. H's minister had been practised, and accordingly recommended to H. H the immediate dismissal of both the Palace Cash keeper and the Sumprethy.

15. Thus, it will, I trust, be seen that I am in a position to show that point (A) has no foundation.

16. As to point marked (B). I emphatically declare, that I did **not** oppose His Highness' orders permitting Mr Gantz of the Madras High Court Bar to appear for the accused in the Treasury Defalcation Case.

On this subject I submitted a few days ago a memo in extenso to H. H., and also to the Resident, which memo I trust the Resident will do me the justice to submit to the Madras Government. I will, however, recapitulate a few salient ~~points~~ facts-

17. I was not at all aware that H. H. had given permission to Mr Gantz to plead in the local courts. After Mr Gantz appeared before the Court, he himself came to me and said that he had applied by a telegram from Palamcotah, direct to H. H., applying for a postponement of the trial, and that the Palace Foujdar had Telegraphed in reply to Mr Gantz that the trial was postponed. This Mr Gantz construed into a permission on the part of H. H. to be admitted to plead in the local court. I distinctly informed Mr Gantz that I had myself no objection to his appearing for the defence, but that I could not agree with him in construing the

Foujdar's

31

Forsjan's telegram postponing the trial, into a permission of H. H. for him (Mr Gantz) to plead in the local court contrary to the usages of the local courts. I further informed him that a similar question had, on some former occasions, arisen, and been decided in the negative; that the Regulations enacted by H. H. left to the court itself to decide the question of the admissibility of a foreign pleader; and finally that I had just before received from the Asst. Resident in charge copy of an endorsement which that authority had granted to the client of Mr Gantz to the effect that Mr Gantz could not be allowed to appear in person for the defence.

18. I instructed the prosecution the next day to state to the court, if questioned, that the prosecution had no objection to Mr Gantz, but that it was left to the court to act under existing laws.

19. The prosecutors went to the Court with these instructions. Then they were for the first time informed that the Court had just then received a D. O. communication direct from the Palace Foujdar stating that H. H. had no objection to Mr Gantz appearing for the defence. The Prosecutors clearly and emphatically stated to the court that they fully respected H. H's order, that they had no objection whatever to Mr Gantz; and that it was entirely for the court to act as it thought best.

20. It was _after_ this that I came to know that such a D. O. communi-cation regarding Mr Gantz had gone direct from the Palace Foujdar to the Court.

21. It was after that, again, that I myself received an official communication from the Palace directing that it be arranged at once that the Court admit Mr Gantz. This communication was, of course,

given

given effect to promptly.
22. It will thus be clearly seen that I did not, as alleged, oppose His Highness' order on the subject of Mr Gantz.
23. But I beg to invite particular attention to a most significant fact, which, in itself, entirely exculpates me. Mr Gantz himself declared in open court that the Dewan had no objection to his (Mr Gantz') appearing to conduct the defence. How, then, could it possibly be said that I objected to Mr Gantz, and so opposed H. H's order?.
24 Again, when I explained these matters in extenso to H. H., H. H. himself exonerated me in reply.
25 I need not say more here to show that point (B) has no foundation either.
26. It is a fact, however, that His Highness had been led, by parties interested in sowing dissensions, to imagine that I had opposed

His

His Highness' wishes in regard to the admission of Mr Gantz. It was a clear misapprehension on H. H's part; and the best of mankind are liable to misapprehend matters sometimes. H. H. was even led to suppose that the Asst Resident's endorsement disallowing Mr Gantz, was the effect of some secret representation from myself to that authority who was then away from the Capital, whereas I had made no representation whatever on the subject! I explained matters fully to H. H., and, as already stated, H. H. exonerated me, in reply, from the imputation of having opposed His wishes. There was thus, I thought, an end of the matter, and I am sorry to see it now resumed and urged against me notwithstanding the clear facts of the case, showing, beyond all doubt, and from the testimony of even the hostile counsel himself, that I did not object to Mr Gantz.

4

27. As for the point marked (C) — Having obtained through the Police the fraudulent Receipt of the Cash-Keeper, I did send for the Cash-Keeper and show the receipt to him, when he admitted his signature as he admitted it to H. H. himself the very next day. Being H. H's first Minister, and engaged in detecting the nefarious frauds practised in H. H's own Treasury, I thought I was at liberty to send for the Cash Keeper and question him on the subject. Let my motives for this action be fairly judged — If, however, I have unconsciously given any offence to H. H. in thus sending for the Cash-Keeper and questioning him on the subject, I have no hesitation in expressing to H. H. my heart-felt regret first, and offering to H. H. my many humble apologies. At worst, it was but an Error of judgment, the Consequence of no other than excessive zeal for the

to the public interests.

28. I have now, I think, met all the points alleged against me, and I beg full consideration of my explanations though they may appear tedious. After such consideration, I am confident that it will not be thought that any thing has been done by me, to call for, or justify the very severe measure contemplated in regard to me.

29. [illegible]. In the transaction of the multifarious business of a state misapprehensions on the part of H. H. might, sometimes, arise, especially when intrigues are set in motion to oppose an honest and resolute effort to bring the powerful robbers of the Public Treasury to justice. That the worst intrigues and misrepresentations have been in full play, has been proved to the satisfaction of H. H, and the Resident. (vide Residents memo 911 dated the 31st ultimo). In such a state of things, an upright minister

peculiarly stands in need of sym-
-pathy and support in the perfor-
-mance of a highly difficult, and
as experience has proved, a most
dangerous duty. May not the wise
and beneficent influence of the
British Government be, in this
crisis, brought to bear in clearing
up unfortunate misapprehensions.
I beg to be pardoned for saying that
it would be hard — very hard, if that
influence should be inactive at
such a juncture, and should even
be instrumental in accelerating
the effects of a temporary irritation
arising from a total misapprehen-
-sion of the real facts and circum-
-stances.

30. His Excellency Lord Napier
said to me amid a brilliant
assembly at Madras, convened
for the purpose of investing
the Knights of the Star of India,
"The Mark of Royal favour which
"You have this day received will
prove

"prove to you that the attention and
"Generosity of our Gracious Sovereign
"are not circumscribed to the circle
"of Her immediate dependents, but
"that Her Majesty regards the faithful
"services rendered to the Princes and
"People of India beyond the boundaries
"of our direct administration, as
"rendered indirectly to Herself, and
"to Her representatives in this
"Empire" - Pretending as I do, to
have performed some such
faithful services as His Excellency
Generously gave me credit for,
May I not reasonably hope,
that His Excellency's Government
will not allow mere misappre-
-hensions, arising out of the
performance of an arduous
and necessary duty to the State,
to nullify the claims to consideration
founded in years of incessant
and faithful service which
Her Majesty regards as rendered
indirectly to Herself?

31. I respectfully request that the Resident will be good enough to submit this Memo at his earliest convenience to the Madras Government together with my Memo to H. H., already in the Residency records, regarding the admissibility of Mr Garety, & also the Resident's own Memo on the Petition fraud proved to have been perpetrated by certain interested and intriguing parties attached to the Palace; And I wait with equal confidence and respect the just verdict of that Government as well as that of His Highness the Maha Rajah, who will, I think, feel after the passions and intrigues excited by this public trial shall have fairly passed away, that H. H's Minister is blameless, and has only done unflinchingly his duty to the State, a duty, the advantage of which will long survive the present

present administration. His Highness will be even disposed generously to forgive any little lapses arising only from an ardent zeal for the real interests of His Highness, and His Highness' Country.

32. Only about a couple of months since, when I was taking leave of H. H. to go to Quilon for the benefit of my health which had somewhat suffered, H. H. was most graciously pleased to earnestly impress on me the desirableness of my attending to my health: And H. H generously added that, so long as I should enjoy the blessing of sound health, I should continue H. H's chief Minister; a circumstance which shows that the happy relations which subsisted between Sovereign and minister have been disturbed only very lately in consequence of misapprehensions unfortunately arising from the occasion of the state-trial now

in progress.

53. In conclusion, I beg respectfully to state that, if there be any other points in Mr Minchin's Confidential Communication to Government, requiring explanation, I shall be prepared to offer full explanations on being favoured with a copy of that communication. Without such copy, it is obviously impossible for me to meet all the points exhaustively, as I perused Mr Minchin's communication which took me by surprise, under a sense of great pain, and cannot remember every part of it.

True copy

T. Madava Row
Dewan

Trevandrum
4th Jany 1871

Mr Minchin's
Memo. of Dec.
31st respecting
dismissal of two
Palace Officers.
Duplicate of Sir
Madava Rao's
Memo. No: 21
Jan: 4. /71.

Trivandrum
Jany 7th 18[illegible]

My dear Ellis

I have just received a further communication from Sir Madava Row, which he has asked me to forward by todays post. I have hurriedly scribbled a few remarks in the margin - but I really do not quite gather whether Sir Madava Row thinks

that the Government
ought to compel the Maha-
-raja to retain him in
Office against his will.
He has acknowledged to
myself, that if he cannot
overcome His Highness's
present feelings of aversion,
it will be incumbent on him
to resign, & this appears to
me a far more dignified
course, than trying to make

himself appear as a victim
of wicked intrigues.

I conscienciously think
that he has brought about
the present complications
by his injudicious proceedings
as an adept at intrigue, he
can not comprehend straight-
forward policy, & in his heart
he believes that the Rajah
is, & always was on the side
of the accused parties in the
Deputation case, & that he could
only secure a Prosecution by

not withdrawing the Majesty & the rival parties—

I am convinced that if properly treated H. Highness would have done all that was proper at every stage of this case — & that his complaint of the want of confidence shown in him is fully justified —

Sincerely yours

James Emerson Tennent

Confidential

Memo

In the last para of my memo under date the 4th Instant which the Acting Resident has kindly submitted to the Madras Government, I stated that, if furnished with a copy of Mr Minchin's confidential letter to His Excellency the Governor, I should be prepared to offer full explanations on such other points which that letter might embrace, as were not met in my memo -

2 Since that, Mr Minchin has been so good as to allow me a perusal of that confidential letter, & also of another on the same subject addressed to Mr Ellis on the 5th Instant - And I have again to record my sincere gratitude for the spirit of justice & generosity which this concession implies -

3. Having perused these papers I have made a careful note of the points which remain to be touched upon: & the following remarks are respectfully offered in connection with them.

4. The gravest of the points specifically alluded to in Mr. Minchin's letter to His Excellency the Governor appeared to me that embodied in the following passage. "The Dewan must "have been perfectly aware that such "a permission (for Mr. Gantz to plead "for the defence) had been granted on "His Highness' authority, but, because "the order was not issued through "himself, he acted as if he were "unaware of it, & instructed the "Circar Vakeels to oppose the ad= "=mission of Barristers before the "Commission".

This is the passage which in my letter to Mr. Ellis, I stated, required modification. I was under the belief that the Diwan had opposed the Barristers being employed for the defence: 1st from H. H's Telegram to myself. 2nd from the Diwan's own memo on the subject, which I have forwarded to Govt.

J.D.M.

5. Now, this predicates

1st that the Dewan was aware of the permission granted on H.H's authority. 2dly that he acted as if he were unaware of it. 3dly that he instructed the Sircar Vakeels to oppose the admission of the Barrister. and 4thly that his *motive* for thus acting was mortification at the permission having been granted through a medium other than his own.

6. All this, if correct, would tell rather seriously against me. But I have clearly shown in my Memo of the 4th Instant that the Dewan was not aware of the permission granted. It necessarily follows from this that the Dewan could not & did not feign ignorance. I have also shown that the Dewan did not object to Mr. Gantz' admission. When it is shown that an act itself did not take place, it is superfluous

to disclaim the <u>motive</u> assigned for such act.

7. Thus, the most prominent of the grounds taken must, I submit, be, in justice to me, entirely abandoned.

8. In doing this justice to me, however, Mr. Minchin, in his letter to Mr. Ellis, remarks "It only shows how completely the Dewan must have kept himself aloof from His Highness to be unaware of so notorious a fact," the fact thus alluded to being that of a communication having been sent direct to the Court under H. H.'s authority to admit Mr. Gantz. I respectfully submit that Mr. Minchin is in error in supposing that the fact was 'so notorious'. The fact became known to the Dewan soon after it was mentioned in Court on a certain forenoon.

the fact alluded to, was that the accused parties had represented to H. H. that no local Vakeels would dare to take up their defence against the Dewan & H. H. had given permission for the employment of Barristers.

J Hum

2/

And I beg *particular* attention to the circumstance that Mr. Jantz himself, the most interested party, was *not* aware of the fact the very previous Evening when he called on & spoke to me about the question of his admissibility. Can anything be stronger proof than this to show that the fact was not 'notorious'?

9. Mr. Minchin fully recog=nizes the propriety of my having brought the Treasury Defalcation case to a judicial investigation. The Head Seristadar of the Revenue Depart=ment (the Officer being denominated Valia Melettoo Pillay here) was one of the most responsible & trusted of my subordinates. He owed very much to me personally for his promotion from a most petty Office to the honorable post he held, the very highest wh. one in his position could ever aspire to. A serious

I regret to say, that the Dewan has suggested the abandonment of this trial, as a means of recovering the H's good graces, & ensuring his continuance in power: an act which I was forced to tell him was too discreditable to be thought of.

HM.

breach of trust on the part of such an Officer, involving the loss of so much as 35,000 Rs, must be highly criminal. And it must be remembered too that this Defalcation occurred not long after the conviction & punish=ment of so high an Officer as Mr. Liddell, & not long after a defal=cation of about 30,000 Rs in the Sudr Court Treasury, & also other serious defalcations in the treasuries of the Trevandrum & Alleppey Zillah Courts. It was, therefore, of vital importance to the best interests of the State & to the Character of the whole administration to put the Revenue Head Sheristadar on his trial. I vividly remembered too His Excellency Lord Napier's own impressive advice to me, given when His Lordship was at Trevandrum, in regard to the necessity of thoroughly

investigating a comparatively less heinous, & infinitely less sustainable charge which had been brought against Vailoo Pillay Peishcar by Captn Gray. And I felt that this, His Lordship's advice, was much more applicable to the present case. I hesitated not to do my duty accordingly, in the firm belief that it was an imperative though stern duty, and that, in the performance of it, I should receive every support from His Lordship's Governt as well as from His Highness the Maharajah.

10. Not only is the propriety of the trial fully recognized by Mr Minchin, but this authority is aware, as it has been fully established, that certain servants about H. H. had identified themselves with the interests of the Revenue Head Serishtadar and had recourse to the boldest intrigues in his favor, & against the Dewan.

I believe in the fact of this intrigue & have induced his Highness to dismiss the two servants guilty of it.

H. H. I fear has only shown disbelief in the Dewan's truthfulness, that he believes the whole thing to be an invention of Sir Madava Row & his dependants.

11 - Now, if such intrigues took effect in creating some serious misapprehensions regarding me in H.H's mind, does it, I beg to ask, follow as a sequence that I "made no attempt to enlist H.H on the side of the right"? Such attempt, I beg to submit, I did not fail to make. As I have stated in my previous Memo, I was repeatedly in communication with H. H on the subject of the Treasury Defalcation. I fully informed H.H of the reasons wh induced me to suspect the Head Seristadar: I represented that the honor of H.H's service made it in=cumbent on the Sircar to institute a trial: & so forth. My endeavours in this direction were not only made, but were most earnestly made. And be it noted that every step towards a public trial of the case was taken under H.H's sanction.

H. H named a Commission to try the accused parties, to take the trial out of the hands of the Dewan, as Magte, whom he would not allow to be Prosecutor & Judge.

3/

It was under H.H.'s sanction that the very first Departmental enquiry was held. The special tribunal to try the case was formed by order of H.H. By order of H.H. was a Barrister of the Madras High Court engaged for the prosecution. It is under H.H.'s authority that the whole trial is proceeding. The enquiry in the Palace, which disclosed bold & iniquitous intrigues, was held by permission of H.H.

In these circumstances, I would respectfully ask what else any other person in my situation would or could have done?

12. As regards "the honesty" of the present administration, I am sorry there is any occasion to require a word in its defence. I can confidently appeal to the deliberate verdict of the whole population of Travancore with the exception of that small class of persons who find it impossible

This enquiry was sanctioned by H. H. on my bringing the matter to his notice openly. The Dewan had first tried under-hand enquiries, without the knowledge or of course sanction of H. H., & this has brought H. H. indignation to a crisis.

J.M.

I regret to say that H. H. has no belief in Sir Madava Rows honesty. Nothing could be stronger than his expressions on this point, which it was my duty to bring to notice.

to identify their personal interests with those of an upright administration. I can appeal with confidence to the opinion of successive British Residents, from General Cullen down to Mr Minchin inclusive. I can appeal to the judgment of successive watchful Governments at Madras. I can appeal to the convictions of ~~several~~ numerous European Missionaries residing in the Country, mixing freely with the population and dedicating the best years of their life to the cause of moral progress. I can equally appeal to the calm judgment of the whole Royal family.

13. As for the alleged "lust of power," I can only say that I have loved power, but loved it as the means of doing good to this my adopted Country, of raising H.H's reputation throughout Hindustan, & of contributing my mite to

H.H. does not believe him to be guilty of corruption, but he thinks him wily, false and intriguing.

J.M.

Being personally appealed to, I have no hesitation in recording my own belief that Sir Madava Row's administration has never been corrupt. I think him a self-seeking man, & not honest, if by honesty is meant straightforward uprightness. He is honest for a Mahratta Brahmin.

J.M.

satisfy the Imperial Government that Natives can prove themselves faith-ful trustees of power, & honest & efficient administrators of a country. What power has been confided to me has been uniformly & conscientiously used for the good of the country; & the country itself, in its prosperity & contentment, is witness of the fact.

14. And, after all, what is the power entrusted to me? It is exceedingly limited, & is, in several respects, below that of a Collector in a British Indian province. Whatever has been done beyond the allotted limits, has been done under H.H.'s sanction obtained from time to time in the course of daily & pretty extensive correspondence with the Palace.

15. This sanction H.H. has, of course, always the power to give or withhold according to His pleasure or judgment. H.H.

H H has always also the power of issuing to the Dewan any order upon any subject according to H H's own wishes. It follows, then, that it is not possible that there should be any "studied neglect of H H's wishes" on the part of the Dewan. Be it noted that H H's orders to the Dewan in matters of business are systematically conveyed in writing, & these orders are duly recorded. Where are the orders (may I be permitted to ask) conveying H H's wishes, and wh have not been carried out by the Dewan?

16. With such prerogatives as indicated above, His Highness cannot but be the depositary of supreme power in the State.

17. If an upright & faithful Dewan, pretending to the advantages of some experience & study,

takes pains to submit only well-considered measures to H.H. for sanction, & assigns good reasons in support of such measures; and, if H.H., in consequence, generally accords His sanction in the form of deliberate written communications from the Palace; can it be said that there is any "despotism" on the part of the Dewan? Most of the important measures proposed by the Dewan have received the support of the British Residents also, officers, over whom the Dewan can exert no influence whatever, except what is legitimately exerted by the inherent power of truth, justice & sound policy. I have no hesitation in asserting that, in reality, there has been no period in the history of this State when there was ~~less~~ so little of "despotism" ~~&~~ & so much of security to life, liberty & property, as during the present administration.

I again call the Country to bear its testimony to this fact - And I may be permitted to add that it is the eradication of despotism to a great extent, & the introduction of uniform & settled principles of Govern.t conducive to an equalisation of protection to all classes, that have made the present Dewan odious to that limited but powerful Class who, in the absence of settled Government, would have enjoyed undue advantages -

18 - I do not forget that I am bound to act as the servant of H H the Maharajah - I can only say that I have always conscientiously endeavoured to act as a really faithful minister - Minor differences apart, look at the results attained, results wh have been honored with the Congratulations of His Excellency

doing their to induce
Sir ... H. H.
the Maharaj ...
to ... be ...
certainly ...
their only odi...
but I can ...
no one less of
despot -
J. M...

the Governor in Council. But it is a matter of the deepest regret to me to learn that I have failed to give satisfaction to His Highness the Maharajah in any respect – The powerful dictates of self-interest concur with those of clear duty to render me most sincerely anxious to make what amends I humbly can to H H for my shortcomings – Naturally preferring to premature retirement an honorable continuance in Office for some time longer with the privilege of serving H H & further advancing plans for an improved administration, I am only awaiting an opportunity most convenient to H H to make my most sub=missive apologies, & earnestly to ask H H to pardon past errors. I hope that the Maharajah's mild & forgiving disposition will

In spite of Sir Madava Rows faults, he is an excellent public servant, & if he can get H. H to tolerate his continuance in Office, it will be the best thing. I do not however think that all decent [?] men in Travancore would crave [?] on his being Pensioned.

J.M.

will induce H.H. to incline a favorable ear to my humble prayer, and that a most painful close of an honorable career may be averted in consequence of my being so fortunate as to be reinstated in H.H.'s good graces -

T. Madava Row

Dewan

Recd on 7th Jany 1871

P.S. - I beg to apologize for the frequent references to the present administration & to personal matters, which ~~was~~ were unavoidable under the necessities of a defensive explanation - TMR

To

J. I. Minchin Esquire

&c &c &c

T. Madava Row
3rd Memo.
Jan 7/71

Confidential dispatch –

Trivandrum. Jany 10th 1871.

My dear Lord Napier

I think it right to submit for your consideration, copies of a correspondence that has this day past between His Highness and myself. I did not think it advisable to show His Highness your Lordship's unreserved communication to myself, alluding as it did to the conduct of the First Prince, and enquiring as to the alleged Palace Intrigues against the Dewan. I therefore contented myself with stating to H. H. that the letter expressed your usual kindness and consideration for him.

Since the correspondence now forwarded took place, I have had my usual weekly interview with Sir Madava Row, and I am glad to say he fully realises the impossibility of his retaining office in defiance of the Maharajah's wishes.

I need hardly say that under such circumstances I am desirous of doing every thing in my power to break his fall, and to save him from all appearance of degradation.

His own suggestion is that at the close of this trial he should take three months leave of absence, and at the same time place in H. H's hands his resignation of Office, dated from the termination of his leave, to be accepted by H. H at that period. Sir Madava Row has of course a lingering hope that after three months consideration, H. H. will change his mind, and allow him to return to Office. I have told him that in my opinion such an idea is a pure delusion, but that I am happy to do my best to carry out such an arrangement, in order to spare his feelings, and save him from the appearance of disgrace.

If your Lordships Government should approve of this arrangement, and strengthen my hands by an expression of opinion to that effect, I have no doubt that I can induce H. H to carry out the change in such a way, that no one unacquainted with this correspondence shall be aware of any decided rupture between H. H, and his Minister having taken place, and I think that so useful a public servant as Sir Madava Row has been, deserves every consideration both from the English Government, and his own Master.

Sir Madava Row would desire that no step be taken to fill up his Office, until the expiry of his leave, the duties being carried on by one of the Dewan Peishkars. I do not think this would be at all desirable, nor likely to be approved of by H. H.

I have already mentioned to your Lordships

in a private letter, that H. H suggested to me that he would like R. Ragoonadha Row, the Madras Dep^ty Collector, to be Sir Madava Rows successor - The cause of the selection lies I believe in his being the son of a former Dewan of Travancore - I have known him for many years, and though he made a fool of himself at Trichinopoly, I believe him to be an honest as well as able man. With the exception of Rungacharloo, who I presume would not leave Mysore, I know no one better qualified to fill the post. I need hardly say that I have not written to him on the subject, but I suppose he would gladly accept the appointment - I shall communicate with him only when authorised to do so.

Believe me sincerely yours

James Lucas Minchin

Ac^t Resident

The Lord Napier

K.T.

10th January
1871.

To J. J. Minchin Esq

My dear Sir

The D. Brown addressed a letter to me last evening making some lame excuses for his past conduct and ~~instructing~~ entreating me to write to you in behalf of him but it was made known to him that under the existing circumstances I am decidedly averse to admit any such an unsatisfactory apology or to alter the

strong resolution I have already made after the most deliberate consideration I was reflecting a great deal on this subject and I cannot but arrive at the only conclusion that as I have entirely lost my confidence in the Dewan as it is well known to himself and as he has become so obnoxious it will be utterly impossible for me to conduct my public business through him so the sooner he retires the better

it is not only to the peace of
my own mind but to the general
administration of the country
which cannot but be seriously
affected under the present un-
satisfactory state of things between
the two important heads the
Sovereign and the Minister. I
am really very anxious to know
whether you have received any
reply from Lord Napier and as
I regret much that owing to
certain unavoidable religious Ex-

engagements until Thursday
which would prevent me from
having the pleasure of seeing
you I shall feel extremely
thankful to you allowing me
to have a sight of Lord Napier's
reply if you were to receive it
during this time — The Dewan
so powerful and influential
as he is, ~~being indirectly~~ having evidently become
so hostile to me and thereby
his party too ~~thus~~ that are most
of the Sirkar high and low

officials being his own creatures I need hardly say that I have not a real friend at this truly critical moment but *yourself* to support me cordially and to sympathize with me heartily as you do already and of which I am deeply sensible and I entirely rely on your superior wisdom impartial judgment and above all ~~such~~ your sincere kindness to me to place

matters at a satisfactory footing without much delay.

Your sincere friend

(Signed). Rama Varmah.

---

of even date in reply to my answer

My dear Sir

I am extremely thankful for your very kind note of this date, and allowing me to have a perusal of the paper herewith returned. I am truly glad that you so fully agree with the observations made in my note, of this morning, and I may state briefly that

I will take patience until the close of the present trial, under the strong assurance that the Dewan shall retire immediately after that, as there could not be the least shadow of a hope of any change in my already so forcibly and repeatedly felt and expressed final opinion in the matter. You are quite at liberty to produce any of my letters to you, on the subject, before the Government, according to the demands of the occasion, so that the Government may fully know what my real feelings are on the subject, and how deeply I confide in you. I did not send my reply to that letter of the Dewan, but I am sorry that immediately after the receipt of that letter yesterday morning I caused the Tongdar to write a private note to the Dewan in the usual way, that

I would not admit any such explanation at such a moment, nor would I alter my opinion without mentioning any other thing. I have discontinued my direct private correspondence to the Dewan more than a year, as I could not bear his very unpleasant way of bothering me frequently with private letters. My best thanks are also due to you for your attending to Lord Napier's private note to you and I entirely rely on the assurance made therein as kindly mentioned in yours. The peace of my mind would entirely depend on the satisfactory settlement of this affair, as you could easily imagine.

Yours sincerely
Rama Varmah.

True Copy: J. J. Ninnlaw.

3

Confidential

Jan. 20th

My dear Maharaja

I am deeply gratified by the kind expressions contained in your letter, and the confidence you repose in me.

I beg to enclose for your perusal the letter with which I forwarded the Dewan's explanation to Mr. Ellis.

I have received a private note from Lord Napier,

expressed with his usual kindness & consideration for your Highness, & I think you may rely on every weight being given to your personal feelings in this matter. I quite agree with your Highness, that in the existing state of things between you & your Ministers it is impossible for the affairs of the State to be satisfactorily conducted by

and you may fully rely on my support.

At the same time I beseech Your Highness to be patient and to allow no outward sign of displeasure with your Ministers to escape you at this critical period. The trial is progressing satisfactorily, & will soon be closed, & it will then be the duty of the Divan to accede to your wishes, and retire honorably from your

service, if your Highness
is determined on such a
course — I think it will
be better if your Highness
delay till that period, to
reply to the Dewan's late
communication to which
you allude —

Sincerely yours

James Brooke

Confidential Immediate

The Hon. E. A. J. Arbuthnot

The Hon. J. D. Lim C.M.G.

The Hon. R. T. Allen

Private.

[illegible]

Jany 8

My dear Lord Napier

I received yesterday your letter of the 3d, & at once acted on the advice given as regards the Irish Prince, with whom I had an interview yesterday evening.

I had not previously taken him into confidence,

the subject of the misunderstanding between the Maharaja & his ministers, though he ^heard something to that effect through rumour.

I am sorry to say that he entertains any thing but good feelings towards his brother, against whom all his prejudices are engaged in their dispute. At the same time he is a man of great reserve, & except in the way

of [illegible] wri[illegible]
friends, or amongst
the news papers, would
most careful not to com[illegible]
himself. Hanwinil I think in
a very friendly spirit, the
caution on the subject from
your Lordship which I gave
him, & I believe feels that
it might be very inconvenient
for him to stand up as the
champion of a Diwan's
indefeasible rights, against
Royal prerogative.
As regards Palace intrigues

for the purpose
... the Dewans post-
... was already suggested
... successor who would be
agreeable to him, naming
R. Ragoonadhu Row, a Dy
Husr Depy. Collr. in Madras,
a son of a former Dewan.
While I acknowledged that
there might be no objection
to his nomination, as far
as I was aware, I ~~said~~ wrote in reply that
any discussion on that point
was yet premature.

These are [torn]
dependants at the co[torn]
& even connections of H. [torn]
who are hostile to Sir T.
Madava Row, for he is
disliked by a strong party
in the State. It is probable
that these persons have not
lost an opportunity to gain
H. H's resentment, but no
one who had seen H. H
lay bare his whole heart to
me at an interview, would
suppose that his outburst

[illegible]gregation & resentment
could never been created by
the sinister influence of
others, or be aught else
than the genuine feelings
of his own heart.

The only precedent I can
find for the present state
of things, is when the Rajah
of Cochin demanded the
removal of General Cullen's
Dewan, on the ground of

personal obs[...]
also brought forw[...]
charges, but these w[...]
enquired into, & the [...]
was removed without trial,
on the above ground alone.
This was on Mr. Maltby's
arrival, when the old system
of rule through the Resident,
was for the first time
abandoned.

I may mention that H.
H. agreed years ago that Sir
Madava on retirement, should

… ion of R 800
… ths, & he objects to
… amount proposed by my
& I do not think would
willingly consent to more
than R 700 - This amount
may probably be considered
enough by Government, but
I wished to be liberal towards
Sri Madura, while doing my
duty in protecting H. H.
from his disposition.

Believe me
sincerely yours
James Innes Minchin

Secret
I. D.

I would say "regrets" instead of "blames". The word "regrets" implies the blame but is less severe

Proposed Telegram to the Resident in cypher. A.P.

The Government ~~regret~~ blames[x] the precipitation with which you have admitted the removal of the Dewan. Advise the Maharajah to abstain from any further steps in this sense. The Senior Member of Council will immediately proceed to Trivandrum for the purpose of effecting an adjustment

(of these differences conformable
to the views of Government

Perhaps it would be better to put
the latter part more generally —
"of conferring with H. M." or
something like it.

I propose the text of the telegram
substituting "reports"
for "Names".

G.

Proposed
Telegram to
M. Munchi

Minute by H.E. The Governor.

Having carefully gone over the papers respecting the unfortunate breach between the Maharajah of Travancore and his Minister which have rapidly accumulated on our hands in the last few days I am painfully struck by the extreme precipitation and rashness with which the whole affair has been regarded and I may say in part conducted by the acting Resident.

It may be a fair question for discussion whether the present rupture has been directly & chiefly

caused by the incidents connected with the pending trial of certain parties accused of malversation in the public Treasury or whether these incidents have merely offered an occasion for the disclosure of resentments of long standing between the Maharajah and the Dewan. It was open to Mr. Minister to form an opinion on either side and to submit it to this Government leaving it to this Government to determine on a general review of the

care whether it is desirable or not to recommend the maintenance of Sir Madava Row's office.

Mr. Mincher has not been contented to abide by this prudent course. Having embraced the opinion rather hastily that the conduct of Sir Madava Row was very culpable in the late transactions and that the conduct of the Maharajah has been irreproachable the Resident reaches to the conclusion that the Dewan must be removed that the rupture cannot be healed,

he even goes so far as to settle the amount of the Dewan's pension and apparently to debate the selection of a successor. These conclusions he communicates to the Rajah and the Dewan avowing himself thus to be the partisan of the former and the adversary of the latter, committing the Government, as far as he can, for which he is acting, and rendering himself unavailable and powerless as the advocate of a course which the Govt. may at prescribe opposed to his own. —

2

I regard Mr. Minchin as useless at this moment as the Representative of the Govt. of Madras and I only hesitate to remove him because such a step might be regarded as an affront to the Rajah, as an approval of the Dewan, and as too severe a punishment on an experienced and in some respects able public Servant.

The Government ~~at present advised~~ are unanimous in thinking, with the benefit of information now before them,

that it would be unfortunate that the Dewan should be removed from his office, that it would be deplorable that he should be dismissed in connection with an affair in which corruption, private malice and private interests have been at work and that this Government should make an authoritative and well considered effort to reconcile him to his sovereign and maintain him in power.

Such an effort Mr. Menichi can no longer make with propriety & success. We shall require to employ a more prudent, dispassionate and restricted agency.

The fittest representation of the views of Government in this conjuncture appears to me to be the 1st member of Council and Mr. Arbuthnot - his Majesty consented to repair at once to Trivandrum for the purpose of endeavoring to adjust these

differences of the Govt. determine to avail themselves of his services.

In sanctioning the mission of Mr. Arbuthnot I do not think that the Government should give him any detailed instructions. His object will be to maintain Sir Madava Row in power with the goodwill of the Maharajah, without doing violence to the deliberate resolutions and wishes of the Sovereign on the one side and without humiliating conceding

on the part of the Minister on the other. Mr. Arbuthnot would use his best endeavours to persuade the Maharajah to receive his Minister back on a cordial ~~footing~~ and honorable footing. If he finds the Maharajah possessed with a settled and invincible repugnance to this arrangement Mr. Arbuthnot would stipulate that the retirement of the Minister should be effected with proper recognition in all respects of his distinguished services

The Resident should be informed of the intention of Government by Telegraph and letter from the Chief Secretary

The Maharajah should be informed of Mr. Arbuthnot's mission & of its purpose by letter ~~of which Mr.~~ ~~&~~ from the Governor of which Mr. Arbuthnot would be himself the bearer.

Guindy Park. Madras
January 11th. /71.

Napier

H.E. has so graciously
stated my views that I
need only record my con-
currence in his minute

L.B.

Minute by
H.E. The
President.

9th Dec 71

Copy

Government House
January 14th 1870

Sir, My Friend,

I have learned with much concern that Your Highness has in a recent transaction conceived unfavorable impressions respecting the conduct of Sir Madava Row and that you have contemplated the removal of the Dewan from his office.

Sir Madava Row has long enjoyed the esteem of Her Majesty's Government and of the Government of Madras and under Your Highness' enlightened and benevolent authority he has been

To His Highness
The Maharajah of Travancore G.C.S.I.
&c &c &c

enabled to confer great benefits on Travancore.

The removal of so eminent a Public Servant without commensurate motives would be repugnant to Your Highness' kindness and justice and would be incompatible with those principles of stability, public order and conscience which Your Highness has infused into the exercise of power. The Secretary of State, the Government of India and the Government of Madras would alike deeply regret that such a resolution should be carried out on insufficient grounds.

The Government consequently earnestly desire by a mediation consistent with

your Highness' dignity to enable your Highness to preserve for your own advantage and that of your subjects the services of Sir Madava Row and to restore between your Highness and your Minister those relations of cordiality which have been unfortunately impaired.

For this purpose this Government have availed themselves of the good offices of ~~the~~ Honble Mr. Arbuthnot, Senior Member of Council, who will proceed to Trevandrum in order to confer with your Highness and the Resident, to remove any just grounds of complaint which may exist and to adjust these differences in a manner acceptable to your Highness and consistent with

the position of a Minister whose duties to the Sovereign whom he serves and to the public interest ought not to be irreconcilable.

Mr. Arbuthnot is already known to your Highness. I need not say how many claims he has to your confidence and respect. I have the honor to be

Your Highness' sincere friend
and well-wisher

Napier

January 14th
Madras.

Sir

(My dear Minchin)

I enclose a copy of a telegram which was despatched to you yesterday, announcing to you the intention of the Govt to avail themselves of the services of the Senior Member of Council, Mr Arbuthnot, for the purpose of effecting, if possible an adjustment of the unfortunate differences, between His Highness the Maharaja and his Dewan Sir Madava Rao.—

315

You will have seen by this Telegram that the Government regret the action which you have taken in this affair as being unnecessarily precipitate.

The communication of your final opinion on the questions at issue, & yr. recommendation to the Govt. which you have m[ade] ~~this question~~ ~~made~~ both to His Highness the Maharajah and to the Dewan, ~~has~~ in the opinion of the Government greatly increased the difficulty of arranging a reconciliation between His Highness and his Minister. All those interested in these matters will certainly believe that in making known yr. ~~opinion~~ views you

~~are~~ were anticipating the formal instructions from Government.

Under these circumstances Mr. Arbuthnot proceeds to Trevandrum, fully informed of the intentions and wishes of the Govt so far as they are formed on the ~~in-~~ correspondence made ~~formation~~ now before them.

It is of the greatest importance that matters at Trevandrum should remain undisturbed until Mr. Arbuthnot's arrival - and I am to request you to do all in yr. power to secure this object.

You will ~~take the necessary steps~~ carefully im press on His Highness the Maharajah

on the Dewan, and on any others who
have influence, that they should abstain
from doing any thing which would
embarrass the Government in deciding
on the advice which they may consider
it necessary to offer to His Highness

~~[illegible]~~

~~[illegible]~~

[illegible]

[illegible]

Trevandrum
24th January
1871

My Lord

I had the honour of receiving your Lordships letter of the 14th Instant, the subject matter of which has been explained to me in detail personally by the Honble Mr Arbuthnot deputed by your Lordship for that purpose — the object your Lordship so earnestly wished being effected as you may have been already informed by telegram sent by the Honble Mr Arbuthnot. I have now simply to lay before your Lordship briefly the real state of my feelings on this occasion — I recognize in your Lordships letter the personal kindness which is exhibited therein in spite of the views taken being so opposed to[...] I am bound by Treaty and c[...]

-dence thus offered by your Government,
-t. I rely on the decision arrived at to
-pport a Minister who is so obnoxious to
-me being removed out in such a way
-s may be least derogatory to my
-gnity - Even since my accession the
-rous behaviour towards me has not
-en what it ought to be -
-ord himself, selfseeking - He ~~[illegible]~~ has
-mudy of power, careless, haughty &
-wishes, pertinacious to carry out his
-ure - I have too much reason to
-ieve that he will regard my
-ntless attempts to break a galling chain
-a fancied victory and consider
-mself as the servant of the British
-overnment, irresponsible to his own
-ister - I rely with confidence on your
-ordships Government passing such
-dens as will show that it is not
that the Durbar should

be a permanent master of this kingd[om]
irrespective of my feelings and desires, or
that I should hold a mere titular
position without authority. I am always
prepared to be guided by the counsels
of the British Government and its Represen[tative]
I am not willing to be the slave of my
own Minister - Having thus unreserved[ly]
stated my feelings I leave the matter entirely
to your Lordships superior judgement -

I remain
your Lordships
sincere friend
Rama Varmah

Maharaja of Travancore

To

His Excellency the Right Honourable
Lord Napier K T Governor of Madras
&c &c

1.80.71. [illegible]
Shown to Mr [illegible] Arbuthnot
[illegible]

MADRAS

Confidential -   Trivandrum. Jany 25th
1871

My dear Ellis

I yesterday received from H. H. the Maharaja a request to be allowed to peruse Mr Maltbys Memo dated 6th Sept 1860, to which allusion was made by Mr Arbuthnot in the course of his recent interviews with His Highness -

I find that on the 31st Jany of last year Para 18 of this memo, detailing the manner in which Mr Maltby proposed to give effect to the orders of H. M. Govt, as conveyed in Lord Stanleys dispatch of the 31st March 1859, and which elicited the entire approval of the Secy of State as conveyed in Para 3 of Sir C. Woods dispatch of the 24th July 1860, was communicated to His Highness by Mr Ballard -

Thus the only portion of Mr Maltbys Memo which contains distinct propositions, has been communicated to His Highness, and as the rest of the Memo consists chiefly of arguments, and is of a confidential nature, I have felt precluded from showing it to His Highness - at the same time His Highnesses wish to be made fully cognizant of the established Policy approved by the Secy of State in 1860, appears one that should be complied with, while the single para of the Memo which has been communicated to him, contains only a few meagre propositions, and is almost silent on that

most important point, the relative positions of Sovran and Minister, and whether the power of removing the latter, is in any degree vested in the former.

I trust therefore that the Government will take advantage of the present opportunity to lay down explicit principles on these points for the future guidance of the Maharaja and the Minister, on which subject it may not be out of place for me to make some observations.

Until the receipt of Lord Stanley's dispatch of the 31st March 1859, the Rajahs of Travancore and Cochin were Titular Princes, and the management of their Kingdoms was carried on by Dewans, appointed by, and responsible to the British Resident alone. Under these circumstances, mere personal obnoxiousness to his master was no ground for a Dewan's removal, as long as his public duties were performed to the Resident's satisfaction.

It is clear from many portions of Mr. Maltby's Memo, that this state of things was intended to be entirely abandoned. While in the propositions laid down in Para 18, it is only stated that the Rajah is to be the administrator of his own territories, through a responsible minister, the Dewan, selected by himself, with the approval of the British Government, and

no allusion is made to the removal of this Officer, in Para 7 of the Minute it is clearly suggested that the Rajah should be considered a sovereign Prince, empowered to select his own Minister, and to remove one obnoxious to himself.

This course was adopted by the Government in their orders of the 24th December 1859 No 752, Para 5, and the removal of the Dewan of Cochin, as claimed by the Rajah, was sanctioned on the ground of the Princes personal dislike.

Taking this order in connection with Para 11 of Mr Maltbys Minute, it would appear that the Government took that opportunity for adopting a decided course, with a view of changing the principle on which the Dewans had hitherto held office.

There is no doubt that in Para 19 of the memo, Mr Maltby intends that the Dewan should be responsible to the British Government. Such responsibility is unquestionable; but I believe it was intended that he should be primarily responsible to his own master, that it is his first duty to secure his masters confidence, and that if he fail to do this, and by such neglect becomes personally obnoxious to his sovereign, no mere administrative ability would be accepted by the British Government, as sufficient reason for forcing his retention on a reluctant master.

The power of offering authoritative advice

under the Treaty, would enable the Government to prevent any wrongful exercise by the Rajah of this power to remove a Minister. It seems almost superfluous to point out, that it would be an impossibility for the Rajah, (to use the words of Mr Maltby's minute,) to be the administrator of his own territories, acting through his responsible Minister the Dewan, when that Officer was a person in whom he had no confidence, with whom all intercourse was painful, and who held office in opposition to his avowed wishes.

If the Rajah is to possess real authority in the State, it appears to me necessary that he should have the power to remove, as well as to appoint a Dewan, subject in both cases to the approval of the British Government.

It may of course be urged that a Constitutional monarch, such as the Maharaja of Travancore has been constituted, is often obliged to accept a Minister, supported by a majority in that body to which the Minister is responsible, against his private wishes, and even when personally obnoxious to himself. Such analogies should not be pushed too far. When, as in this case, the body to which the Minister is responsible is the protecting Foreign Government, the result would be to make the Titular sovereign

a nullity, to make the minister the sole depository of power, and to revert to that system which I believe has been definitively abandoned since Lord Stanley's despatch of 1859.

It should be clearly understood that there is not the slightest wish on the part of His Highness the present Maharaja to adopt the principles of arbitrary rule. It has been recognized that the extent to which the policy indicated in Lord Stanley's despatch should be carried out, must depend on the character of the Sovran. The present Maharaja takes an intelligent interest in the administration of the State, is singularly free from local prejudices, and on certain questions is willing to advance in the liberal direction so desired by the British Government.

On the subject of Caste disabilities, about which so much has been said, and so little done, I have found His Highness prepared to make most important concessions: the Dewan on the contrary as regards this question, concerning which as a foreigner he should be free from local prejudice, is wholly under the influence of the bigoted and repressive school.

There are at present in this State, and I believe have been for years, two factions, the Rajahs, and the Dewans. The official class being mainly the nominees of the Dewan, constitute his chief following, and it was only yesterday

that His Highness was complaining to me of the open manner in which many of the employés avow their disregard for the Royal authority, so long as they possess the Diwan's support. The existence of such factions is most detrimental, and I am sure that the only way to alleviate this state of things, is for the Government to make the Diwan feel clearly that he is not independant of his Sovran.

The other day, when offering to tender his resignation, if three months' leave were granted to him, the Diwan with singular candour acknowledged to me, that had he believed at the time that his position was at all dependant on His Highness's wishes he would have acted quite differently as regarded all his proceedings towards the Palace servants.

Having had the advantage of full and frank conversation with Mr. Arbuthnot, I have reason to believe that the views I have now put forward, are mainly in accordance with the sentiments of Government. As however the exact interpretation to be put on Mr. Maltby's memo is unquestionably open to differences of opinion, I trust

I have not exceeded my duty in placing my own views thereon fully before the Government, on the occasion of His Highness the Maharaja requesting to be furnished with more definite information regarding the most important point discussed in that Memo.

I believe that to obtain any permanent advantage from the reconciliation effected by Mr. Arbuthnot, it is most advisable that the position, powers, and responsibilities of the Sovran and the Minister be more clearly defined, than has yet been the case, to remove the chance of future misconceptions on each side.

Believe me sincerely yours

James Lewis Minchin

Actg. Resident.

Hon. the. R. S. Ellis C.B.

Chief Secretary.

From W. Minchin
To Alexr J. Ellis.

Dated 25 Jan. 71.
Recd. 1. Feb. 71.

V

I have also arranged for His Highness to grant a weekly interview to the Resident on a fixed day, when all matters of business can be brought under discussion. Possible causes of misconception between himself and the Diwan can thus be brought immediately to notice, and the sources of evil be at once restrained.

I trust that matters will now progress smoothly, and such is the confidence I feel in the placable disposition of the Maharaja, that I think it quite possible, now that he has been induced to take the first steps, that he may in the course of time forget the late painful scenes, and restore the Diwan to his confidence, a result which lately I thought to be quite impossible.

I would not have succeeded in bringing

His Highness round so speedily, but for the consideration displayed towards him in the order of Govt. of the 8th Febr., which I received on the 13th.

I have of course carried out strictly the instructions therein conveyed, and have therefore not communicated the 8th Para to His Highness or the Dewan: it would be impossible however for me to obey its instructions without acquainting them with its tenour, and I beg to suggest the advisability of my being permitted to communicate the Para in its integrity to the parties most interested.

Your Lordship has shown such consideration for the difficulties of my position, that I have troubled you with this full account of all that has occurred since Mr. Arbuthnots departure, concerning which, if

there is anything that should be done, or undone, I shall be gladly guided by your counsel. You will doubtless show this communication to your colleagues; I am doubtful whether any more formal acknowledgment of the ~~letter~~ order of Govt. of the 8th inst. is requisite.

Believe me sincerely yours

James Lees Minchin

The Lord Napier K. T.

Not to be copied for [illegible]

Trivandrum Feby 16th 1871

My dear Lord Napier

I have waited to acknowledge your kind letter of the 29th Jany until I could give a favorable report on the state of things existing here. This I am now able to do, as your Lordship may judge from the enclosed letter from His Highness, which he has written on no advice of mine, but prompted solely by his own kindly feelings.

You are aware of the state of mind in which the Rajah received Mr. Arbuthnot's mission. He felt that he could not oppose such an expression of the wishes of Govt., and to avoid unpleasant discussions he yielded at once, but he was in the proverbial state of a man convinced against his will. While Mr. Arbuthnot's personal courtesy removed all painfulness from their intercourse, the Rajah's real feelings on the matter were quite unchanged, and your

Lordship would be surprised at the bitterness of spirit evinced in the original draft of His Highness reply to your Lordship, dated 24th Jany, which he submitted to me, and appealed to me as a friend to assist him in putting into suitable language.

I felt the delicacy of my position, but I did not consider myself entitled to draw up a hypocritical reply, which if it were accepted by His Highness, would have totally deceived your Lordship as to his feelings on the subject, to which his personal intercourse with Mr Arbuthnot could afford little clue. His Highness has so much dislike to personal controversy that in conversation he always yields more than he wishes, and it is only in writing that he ex-presses himself without reserve. I therefore sug-gested to His Highness a more courteous and dig-nified mode of expressing the sentiments in the original draft, though I certainly did not think he would use the ipsissima verba, in which my suggestions were conveyed, as was unfortunately the

From the time that Mr. Arbuthnot left I have been exerting any influence I possess with His Highness, to carry out successfully the policy of the Government. But the task has not been easy: to an imperious Resident I believe it would have been impossible. The Maharaja was sore with the sense of defeat, and could not bring himself to renew his intercourse with the Diwan. He said that he would yield to the wishes of Government, and continue him in his position of Diwan, but that his private feelings were beyond control, and that in future all business must be carried on by correspondence, as personal intercourse was too painful.

Of course I knew that such a state of things could not exist for any length of time, but I thought I was justified in temporising, and in avoiding all appearance of dictation to His Highness. I have lost no opportunity of bringing him round gradually, to the Rajah's

has at last conceded the point, and given permission to the Dewan at once to renew his weekly visits. He has only stipulated that the strict Etiquette of Travancore Royalty is to be preserved, and the Dewan is not to sit in his presence. Until after Sir Madava Row's installation at Madras, this etiquette was never infringed, but since that period by a sort of tacit permission, Sir Madava Row has been allowed a chair before His Highness, a distinction allowed to no other native in Travancore, except Princes of the Blood Royal. I believe that this infraction of etiquette though tolerated by His Highness, was one of many little matters that made him feel a want of personal deference on the part of the Dewan. I have pointed out to Sir Madava Row, that there is no way in which he can now easily disabuse His Highness of such a misconception, than by a willing adherence to the etiquette of the Palace.

Invercullen 16th Jan
1891

My Lord

Mr Mitchison was good enough to hand over to me a copy of the final order of your Lordships Government on the recent unpleasant difference, and in announcing the termination of this affair I beg to tender my grateful acknowledgements for the kindly courtesy which has enabled me to accept your Lordships

...al officers without derogation
...on my royal prerogative
...nd for the cordial support
...fforded by your Lordship
...t such a critical juncture
While fully admitting
my obligation to attend
to the advice of the British
Government on all matters
of general policy, I must
be permitted to maintain
my ultimate right to
select and displace the
Minister by whom that
policy is to be carried
out and I am glad
that the friendly mediation
of Mr [illegible] has
prevented any collision
between [illegible]

wishes and my rights - or
inconsideration I own th
in my letter to your L
of the 24th ultimo I may
have expressed a little
too warmly and freely
my feelings (but I trust
that your Lordship
with your generous
heart will kindly overlook
any part of it which
might have been harsh
and unnecessary
and view the
unreserved opening
of my mind in the
same friendly light
as it was meant by
me - Wishing to leave
the Grand benefit
of your Lordships valuable

[pencil note at top, partly torn: ...May 1871 ... 24]

...ful and powerful
... in all matters of
importance and with
sincere regards

I remain
your Lordships
sincere friend
Rama Varmah

To

His Excellency the Right
Honourable F. Lord Napier
K T Governor of Madras
&c &c
&c

Trevandrum

27th Jany 1871

My dear Sir,

I hope this will find you safely arrived at Madras after a not unpleasant journey.

There is one circumstance which I wish to bring to your notice in connection with the enquiry I held with the Palace Cash keeper in regard to his Receipt. The Department to which this Cash keeper belonged is not a private one. It is a Depart.t the accounts & returns of which are regularly furnished to the Dewan,

& the expenditure of which regularly
enters the public accounts of the
State itself - Accordingly, the Dewan
is in the habit of sending for the
servants of that Depart.t on matters
of business - Thus, this Department
bears no perfect analogy to a
private Establishment -

I trust that this palliative
circumstance will not be altogether
overlooked when Gov.t passes orders
on what has lately occurred -

I also encourage the hope
that the tenor of these orders will be
such as to impart a character of
permanency to the good understand
=ing

which you have been the means of effecting. I am so well aware that I cannot often expect to be propped up by Govt. that it would, I venture to say, be painful to me if I should be, for a moment, supposed unaware of it, especially considering that the indication of such a supposition in the orders of Govt. might possibly encourage my opponents to try the effect of another attack at no distant period!

With renewed most grateful acknowledgments, I am

My dear Sir

Yours very sincerely

T. Madava Row

The Honorable
A. J. Arbuthnot Esquire
&c &c &c C.S.I.

26 December 1870.

Private & Confidential

My dear Sir,

I enclose a Confidential Memo, which will furnish curious reading!

It will show you what difficulties beset honest endeavours to do one's duty.

I beg you will kindly return the Memo. to me after perusal to enable me to take a copy, which I would wish to have, and which may be of some use to Mr Sloan.

I am sorry I am so often obliged to ask you to return papers for my taking copies. The Dewan ought, I think, to have a private Secretary to be unreservedly entrusted with such papers!

After

After taking copy, I will let you have my Memo. back.

I do hope that H.H. will allow me fully to do the needful in pursuing the Enquiry in the fresh fraud in regard to the petitions.

I leave it to your superior judgment to consider if you may, to some extent, facilitate the detection of truth, by dropping a few lines to H.H. <u>before 3 P.M. today</u> when I call on H.H. and when I mean to seek his permission to pursue the Enquiry. Perhaps you may say in a note that you were glad to hear that H.H. had permitted the Dewan to make some Enquiry at the Palace in regard to the Receipt; that you understand that in respect of one or two points connected therewith,

it is desirable to make a little further
enquiry; and that you feel sure that
H.H. will afford every possible facility
to complete the enquiry by directing
the Dewan to refer to any Palace re-
-cords having a bearing on the matter.
If you like, it may be added that
in your opinion the Cash Keeper
should be turned out if only on
the ground of his not having given
<u>any</u> security - or, <u>something</u> to
this effect, the object being to conciliate
H.H's dignity and feelings in every
possible manner, but at the same
time to induce H.H. to give me full
permission to have access to the
necessary records in view to bring
to light the great fraud which
I have reason to believe has been
perpetrated in the Petition affair

as

as stated in the accompanying Memo.

I am
very dear Sir.
Yours Sincerely
Sd/ T. Madava Row.

J. I. Minchin, Esq.

Monday
26 Decr

My dear Sir,

I am much obliged to your kind but confidential note and I am fully sensible of your warm sympathy with my disturbed state of mind in the matter therein alluded to. If you will be good enough to let me have a sight of the Memo the Dewan submitted to you about some intrigue in the Palace against him I am quite prepared to afford you a full explanation of whatever has taken place here and of course a quite imperative enquiry should be made to know the truth - I have not the least objection to lay the whole matter before the Special Commission

if

if you should agree to adopt that course.

Yours Sincerely
Sd/ Rama Vurmah.

Confidential.

Tuesday.
27th Decr.

My dear Sir. A few minutes after I replied to your note of yesterday the Dewan called on me and we had some conversation about that Palace Cashkeeper's case. — The Dewan then told if he was permitted he himself will in communication with the Palace Foujdar make an enquiry into the matter in the Palace itself and let me know the result. I quite agreed to this and permitted him to do so. The Dewan being one against whom the charge has been brought whether it would not be questionable to give any credit to the report he makes as the result of his enquiry into the case and take any action upon it, or constitute some other disinterested authority to make careful scrutiny into the ma[tter]

..n that both may have a fair
..pportunity of defending their own
..ourse by fearlessly stating what
..ey have to say. If so why could
..e not lay the whole proceedings
.. the case before the special com-
..ission.— I do not know what all
..e Dewan might have mentioned
.. his confidential memo. to you
.. this affair.— I have also heard so
..many things in this matter against
..e Dewan and his people so I think
..t would not be quite fair to form
..y opinion on this ~~matter~~ merely
..n Exparte statements without
..nowing from the other party all what
..ey have to say.— If the Dewan were to
..ge that the Palace people in whom he
..as suspicion should be punished without
..ubstantial legal proof I also have
..eason to suspect even more strongly on
..ome of his peoples machinations
..gainst the Palace— Considering all
..hese circumstances let there be a
..egular judicial inquiry on the matter
..nd whosoever should be found
..egally guilty should of course suffer
..or their guilt.— Besides all this the
..alace Sumpetty whom the Dewan
..ccuses is his inveterate enemy while
.. how could we safely rely on the
..ewan's statement against one who
.. so notoriously obnoxious to him.

Yours Sincerely
(Signed.) Rama Vurmah

Wednesday 28 Decr.

My dear Sir,

My hearty thanks are due to your very kind note sent in care of Cureela Vurmah and I have simply to assure you that I shall be truly glad to be guided with your wise counsel as I could not expect a more safe and disinterested advice than of yourself.
I am sorry I made a little mistake by mere oversight in my note of this morning that you may intimate to the Dewan for his returning those records taken from the Palace until he submits his report to me, but now I have to correct that mistake of mine by stating that you are perfectly at liberty to send for those records from the Dewan and retain them in your possession as long as you require them. Will you be good enough

to

to present the enclosed likeness of mine to Captain Hebbert with my best compliments.

Yours Sincerely
Sd/ Rama Varmah.

Private. 28/12/70.

My dear Sir,

I have met with a difficulty in regard to which I beg your advice.

I am this moment engaged in drawing up a Memo for H.H. and yourself clearly showing what gross fraud has been perpetrated in the Palace in regard to a certain Petition connected with the Treasury defalcation. I am sure that a perusal of my Memo under preparation will satisfy H.H. of the fraud done in the interests of the V.M.P. That Memo should be considered of course in connection with certain Evidentiary papers found at the Palace with the Clerks.

My present diffi[culty] is this - the

Palace Fouzdar has suddenly written to me by order of H.H. to return these Evidentiary papers. It would of course be best to return them with my Memo. I am afraid that if returned at once as requested, interested people at the Palace would tamper with them. The intriguers there are desperate people and would not hesitate to do anything for their advantage or safety.

What am I to do in these circumstances? A line giving your advice at your early Convenience will greatly oblige me.

May you not drop a line to H.H. direct saying you have asked me to send the Memo and the Evidentiary papers together to H.H. through you[illegible] This will ensure justice

justice which I fear is in danger.

I am very sorry I have occasion to trouble you so often, but really I feel that I am denied fair play, and the Resident's interference alone would secure it to me.

Yours Sincerely
T. Madava Row

J. I. Minchin Esq

Wednesday
Decr. 28

My dear Maharaja,

The Divan informs me that he has received an Order from your Highness through the Palace Fouzdar, to return at once certain papers obtained with your permission from the Palace which are necessary to support the facts which will be brought forward by him in the statement which he is now preparing for submission to your Highness. As I know that your Highness has perfect confidence in my impartiality, may I ask you as a personal favor, to be kind enough to issue supplementary instructions to him, directing him to forward these papers at once to me, and to submit his

Memorandum

morandum on the subject with the
st possible delay. On receipt of
se papers, I shall be able to give
Highness an unbiassed opinion,
d as I believe you have a just
fidence in the judgment of
roolu Varma, it might be of
vantage for us to discuss the
estion together.

There would be no objection to
Palace Fouzdars being present
the occasion, if your Highness
shed it. I trust your Highness
ll feel that in giving this advice
am actuated solely by the desire
forward your Highness' best
terests

Sincerely yours.

Sd/ James Innes Minchin

Wednesday.

My dear Sir. I just had your note and I am quite sensible of the value of your kind advice and I have perfect confidence in your impartiality. The records which the Dewan took from the Palace were taken without my express order while I had given a general consent only to hold a summary enquiry into the matter I had afterwards reason to find some unauthorized arbitrary proceedings on the part of the Dewan and as he could not readily furnish me with certain documents I urgently called for him I thought it proper to ask him to return the Palace records these were taken by himself. — I must plainly tell you whatever may be his last motive there is apparently a marked want of confidence and consideration on the part of the Dewan in this matter and so I cannot but respond

espond in the same spirit of
want of Cordiality. Cerulah
Vurmah will have fully explain-
ed to you all my views.

Now as recommended by you
I would not press him to return
the documents and you will
be good enough to intimate
to him that he may retain
them until he submits his
report though I could hardly give
much credit to his report under
the reasons that will have been
explained by Cerulah Vurmah.

Yours Sincerely
/Signed/ Rama Vurmah.

Private & Confidential

28 Decr. 1870.
Past 8 P.M.
Office

My dear Sir,

I have just this moment received your note about the Palace documents, which note was, it seems, taken in the first instance to Cotton Hill

My Memo is still under preparation and I hope will be ready tomorrow. The intrigues to be disclosed to H.H. and yourself have been so <u>very</u> sad that, in justice, in simple justice to myself, I must allow myself sufficient time to draw up a clear exposition. I am at the Memo and will continue so all night if necessary, in order to be able to submit it without loss of time. Till I finish this paper, I

I feel it absolutely necessary to detain the Palace papers. I presume no harm can result in detaining them till I conclude the paper under preparation?

I beg to inform you that the most important of the Palace papers bear the initials of the Dewan, the Dewan Peishcar and the Palace Fouzdar, all three officers of the State! And they are in the hand-writing of parties over whom I cannot possibly have any control. I feel, I own, some humiliation in having even to make any allusion to these guarantees, but, under the circumstances, I am compelled to make even such allusion!

Kindly excuse this hurried reply. If, however, it be still desired

that

that the Palace Papers should be forth-
-with returned, I will bow to the
decision, and bear the disadvantage
of not having them to assist me
in drawing up my memo.

I am, my dear Sir,
Yours sincerely
Sd/ T. Madava Row.

J. I. Minchin. Esq.

29 Decr. 1870.

My dear Sir,

I was seriously considering over the proceedings of the Dewan in this painful matter under discussion and I cannot but arrive at the following conclusion. It is much to be regretted that the Dewan has from the very commencement of this affair evidently shown, as it will be proved from the following facts, a marked and repeated want of confidence, consideration and subordination towards me, and I cannot but view his conduct to be very unbecoming and unsatisfactory. In the first place the Dewan publicly objected Mr. Gantz to plead contrary to my orders and then protested against the propriety of my

issuing

issuing the order not through his medium.
Then comes this Palace Cash Keeper's
affair. The Dewan studiedly refrained
from showing to me the receipt, nor
made any mention of it until very
recently, and the source from which he
got it was also not made known to
me. Besides that his calling for the
Palace Cash Keeper and the [illegible] ?
to his house without my knowledge
and consent was also wrong. I came
to know first only from you that he
had to complain anything of that
Cash Keeper's petitions. Though the
Dewan has the unquestionable liberty
of bringing matters to your notice
according to his own discretion accord-
-ing to circumstances, this being a
matter purely connected with the
Palace servants he should have
first brought it to my notice and
then have taken any action upon
it

it. Then comes his writing to you to secure in your possession those documents he took from the Palace without my express orders, having no confidence to send them to me. Under these reasons there is sufficient reason as you may require for him to fall much short in my confidence and consideration, while I have duly appreciated his zealous witnesses, in bringing into light these matters. As regards that petition of the CashKeeper's I do not at all believe that the allegations made there are in any way reliable.
Tho' I have sincere doubts about the intrigues of the Sircar Palace Superintendent and so on. If the Dewan thinks that no enquiry should be made of that receipt, whether it is genuine or spurious, why I should take any notice of this petition of which he

makes

makes such a great noise while I do not at all believe what is mentioned in it against the Dewan. You will be good enough to take all these matters into consideration and favor me with your views regarding the course I should adopt in properly noticing the Dewans' conduct and at the same time settling the other matter.

Yours Sincerely

Sd/ Rama Vurmah.

From the Acting Resident
To His Highness the Maharajah.

Trevandrum.
Decr 29. 1870.

My dear Maharaja,

I sympathize most fully in all your Highness has written to me in your note just received and I fear that I cannot defend the apparent want of confidence that has been exhibited by the Dewan. At the same time I am of opinion that it will have the worst possible effect for your Highness at this juncture to show openly your displeasure with the Dewan, as the public will associate such displeasure with his conduct in the prosecution of the Treasury defaulters.

I expect to receive from the D[...]

his promised Memorandum on the alleged intrigues in the Palace in an hour, and if convenient to your Highness, I will bring the papers to the Palace at 4 o'clock when your relative Keroola Vurma can also be present. I shall then be in a position to offer you my opinion on the fullest information as to the whole matter.

At present it appears to me most advisable on public grounds to reserve any expression of displeasure with the Dewan, until the close of the present trial.

Sincerely yours.

Sd/ James Innes Minchin.

Friday. 30 Dec.

My dear Sir,

Many thanks to your kind note and I should be very glad to have a sight of your letter to Lord Napier when you will be pleased to send it off this Evening as kindly promised as you best said that I may add my own sentiments I thought it better to do so in the shape of the enclosed letter to your address and you are quite at liberty either to send the letter itself privately with your own letter to Lord Napier, or send any portions of it as your own excellent judgment would dictate.

Yours sincerely,

S. J. Rama Vurmah.

29 Decr 1870.

My dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your note and I must plainly tell you that the Dewan being so evidently hostile not only to that party, but to the whole Palace department in which I preside, and his conduct being so unsatisfactory to me, I cannot but be decidedly averse to have any discussion on his statements, as the dictates of my own conscience will not permit me to form any opinion in justice to myself.

Yours Sincerely

Sd/ Rama Vurmah.

Friday - 30 Decr

My dear Sir,

I am extremely thankful for the greatest confidence shown by you so kindly to me in allowing me to have a perusal of your confidential letter to Lord Napier and I have to observe that full justice was done by you to all parties in making so able and impartial a statement of all the true facts as they stand at present. In my fully approving all what you have so wisely and empha-tically stated I will be permitted to state I differ in one point - that is the amount of the pension you recom-mend to be 1000 Rs. - 500 Rs only was promised to him by me some 8 years ago. Besides that we have granted him a landed property, the

the actual value of it will certainly be more than a lac of Rupees and in a quite nominal tax to the State in that property. If you were to think that I must add something to the already promised pension though I am of opinion that he should have only 500, perhaps 200 Rs more may be added, but not more than that. The landed property and some houses, with some other presents he had from me were all obtained by pressing, and as he is going to retire on account of his unsatisfactory conduct towards me I would be only willing to give him 700 Rs. pension for the good services he has rendered to the State if my own free will was consulted. Again with my thanks

Yours Sincerely
Sd/ Rama Vurmah.

P.T.

P.S. Though I have stated my views unreservedly about the amount perhaps it may be left for further consideration, if not you will if you think it unobjectionable be good enough to add that proposal of mine to Lord Napier. You may rest assured that the contents of your confidential letter to Lord Napier will be as safe as if it were in your bosom.

Private 30 Decr 1870

My dear Sir,

When I sent you my Memo together with abstract of evidence in regard to the petition fraud, I intended that those papers should be sent or handed over by you to His Highness with your observations. I mention this, lest I should have omitted to mention it yesterday sufficiently clearly.

In the belief that my Memo &c will reach H.H. through your kind medium, I have not sent the same to H.H. I hope this is all right. If not, I will at once get another copy made and send it to His Highness.

I hope that the force of Truth will make a full impression on H.H's mind and that such impression

will

will encourage and increase confidence on the part of those upright and really devoted and faithful servants of the State, who can solemnly affirm that they have done every thing possible to deserve support.

Yours Sincerely

Sd/ T. Madava Row.

J. I. Minchin, Esq

Private 30 Decr. 1870

My dear Sir,

Many thanks for both your notes of this day. It is a relief to me to hear that H.H. has suspended the Sumprethy and Cash Keeper who have been guilty of such audacious intrigue and I only hope that H.H. will steadily adhere to his wise determination to dismiss them permanently. If H.H. did not take this decided action at this crisis, rascality of almost every description would have enjoyed boundless license.

My strong belief is that the most daring villanies have long been practised by the Sumprethy, and his impunity has been simply the result of the total absence in the Palace of even one really upright and resolute

servant

servant. It was very difficult to bring to light the malpractices, be-cause a great jealousy of external inspection was carefully fostered. In this one instance, the promptitude with which H.H. was pleased to permit me to hold the enquiry was the means of preventing concert and col-lusion, - and providentially the truth came out in all its brightness and natural consistency. If after such disclosure, the parties were not punished, the disclosure would have been infinitely worse than useless, for, impunity even after full disclo-sure, must embolden already bold intriguers. -

I am, therefore, very glad that the headlong career of intrigue has suffered a check. It will certainly have a beneficial effect which would not be quite transitory.

I

I must now thank you warmly for your share in this beneficial result. It is true there has been present (and I hope but evanescent) unpleasantness; it is true there has been difficulty; but the cause of truth and justice calls for sacrifices.

The wisdom of the Marquis of Wellesley in framing the British Treaty with Travancore makes itself felt at such crises; for, under its pro-visions, the enlightened and beneficent power of the English Government is so usefully brought to bear in favor of the best interests of the Native State and its Ruler. Advice seriously and firmly tendered under the Treaty in the interests of good Govern-ment cannot but have the greatest and most effective weight.

Again I say I feel a sense of relief because H.H. has been pleased

pleased to mark with his displeasure the flagitious means which the Sumprethy and Cash Keeper used in their attempt to destroy a high character, dearer to its owner than anything else.

Yours Sincerely

Sd/ T. Madava Row.

P.S. I should like much to know at your convenience if H.H. told you (as H.H. certainly did me) that the Cash Keeper distinctly admitted to H.H. the genuineness of his signature in the Palace Receipt.

Sd/ T.M.R.

Confidential.

Saturday 31st Decr

My dear Sir,

If permitted I may unreservedly state my views regarding the Dewan's successor. It has been generally the custom, of course with several exceptions, that whenever the Dewan's post becomes vacant one of his immediate subordinates the Dewan Peishcars will be promoted according to their ability and uprightness of conduct. In the present instance there are one or two Dewan Peishcars in our service of tolerably good ability and honesty, but I would prefer to secure the service of an outsider whose name I may here mention plainly and who will not be unknown to you. Considering the valuable services rendered by the distinguished Dewan Vencata Row to this State I mean the father of the

the individual I am going to name, and also considering the high character he bears for his intelligence and honesty I would propose the Deputy Collector Ragoonatha Row the present Dewan's cousin, as you are so well acquainted with him and his antecedents I have simply to say that I may place my full confidence in him which is above all the most essential thing in a Minister and of which only I have so grievous reason to complain of Sir Madava Row though he has several other admirable qualities as a clever public servant. Though there may be others at Madras such as Rama Iyengar, Seshaya and Moothooswami who may have a superior education than the individual named by me and in case that a stranger is to be called one of the other may appear to the best as I could not place my implicit confidence

in

in any of the above named individuals but Ragoonatha Row. I would certainly prefer him. Please favor me with your views on this proposal. This is only a brief expression of my views on this most important point though we will have to discuss a good deal personally.

Yours Sincerely

Sd/ Rama Vurmah.

1st January 1871.

My dear Sir,

I gave my best consideration to your Memo. of yesterday's date and its Enclosures and have to inform you briefly that the Palace Sumprethy and the Cash Keeper have been removed from the Palace as recommended by you on the grounds so clearly stated in your Memo. Whatever may be the force of the Dewan's arguments in his Memo, I have my own honest difference of opinion on some points, but it is not my intention to make any comment on it under the existing delicate circumstances of which you are not a stranger. The object being effected this matter should I think be dropped now.

Yours Sincerely

Sd/ Rama Varmah

Confidential

Trevandrum
4 January 1871.

My dear Sir,

I thank you very much for your having sent the telegram you have to the Chief Secretary. I fully expected this action on your part, aware as I am of your characteristic and ardent love for fair play.

My statement being just ready, I beg to send it herewith and request the favor of your sending it on to Govt. at your early convenience - The statement may, if you please, be sent off in original, I undertaking to furnish you with a correct copy for your record.

I trust, my dear Sir, that you will yourself find reason to be

in

in some measure satisfied that my conduct is not open to so much objection as has been taken - If so satisfied, I am confident that you will use your powerful influence in support of the cause of truth and justice - Much, I know, depends on the manner of your putting the matter before Govt.

Now that you have afforded me so justly a fair opportunity to submit a defence of my conduct, may I further rely on your kindness to favor me with a copy of your confidential letter to Govt. to enable me to see what other points there are that would require some explanation? If more convenient to you, I may perhaps be allowed a reperusal of that letter.

There is a point or two in con-nection with my anxiety to right myself

myself in H.H's estimation, on which I would wish to address a few words to you, but I will write tomorrow again.

I am, my dear Sir

Yours sincerely

S/ T. Madava Row.

J. T. Minchin, Esq

Trevandrum.
7 Jany. 1871.

My dear Sir,

I beg now to return with many sincere thanks your confidential letter to Lord Napier and your subsequent letter to Mr. Ellis. I shall thank you for a line to say they have reached you all right.

The perusal of these papers has enabled me to draw up a little supplemental Memo. which I send herewith and which I beg you will do me the favor to submit also to the Madras Govt. You will oblige me very much by sending it on by today's post if possible

With many heartfelt thanks again for the opportunity you have so fairly accorded to me to submit

my

my explanations,

I am, my dear Sir,

Yours Sincerely

Sd/ T. Madava Row

J. I. Minchin, Esq

10 January 1871.

My dear Sir,

The Dewan addressed to me a letter last evening making some lame excuses for his past conduct and entreating me to write to you in favor of him, but it was made known to him that under the existing circum-stances I am decidedly averse to admit any such an unsatisfactory apology or to alter the strong resolution I have already made after the most deli-berate consideration. I was reflecting a great deal on this subject, and I cannot but arrive at the only con-clusion that as I have entirely lost my confidence in the Dewan as it is well known to himself and as he has become so obnoxious it will be utterly impossible for me to

conduct

conduct my public business through
him, so the sooner he retires the better.
It is not only to the peace of my
own mind, but to the general ad-
ministration of the country which
cannot but be seriously affected
under the present unsatisfactory
state of things between the two impor-
tant heads - the Sovereign and the
Minister.

I am really very anxious to
know whether you received any
reply from Lord Napier and as
I regret much that owing to certain
unavoidable religious engagements
until Thursday which would
prevent me from having the pleasure
of seeing you, I shall feel extremely
thankful to you allowing me to
have a sight of Lord Napier's reply
if you were to receive it during this
time

time. The Dewan so powerful and influential as he is, having evidently become so hostile to me and thereby his party too, that is most of the Sirkar high and low officials being his own creatures, I need hardly say that I have not a real friend at this truly critical moment but yourself to support me cordially and to sympathize with me heartily as you do already and of which I am deeply sensible. And I entirely rely on your superior wisdom, impartial judgment and above all, your sincere kindness to me to place matters at a satisfactory footing without much delay.

Your sincere friend

Sd/ Rama Vurmah.

10 January 1871.

My dear Sir,

I am extremely thankful to your very kind note of this date and allowing me to have a perusal of the papers herewith returned. I am truly glad that you so fully agree with the observations made in my note of this morning, and I may state briefly that I will take patience until the close of the present trial, under the strong assurance that the Dewan shall retire immediately after that, as there could not be the least shadow of a hope of any change in my already so forcibly and repeatedly felt and expressed final opinion on the matter. You are quite at liberty to produce any of my letters to you on this subject before the Government according to the demands of the occasion

so

so that the Government may fully know what my real feelings are in the subject and how deeply I confide in you. I did not send any reply to that letter of the Dewan, but I am sorry that immediately after the receipt of that letter yesterday morning I caused the Fouzdar to write a private note to the Dewan in the usual way that I could not admit any such explanation at such a moment, nor I could alter my opinion, without mentioning any other thing. I have discontinued my direct private correspondence to the Dewan more than a year as I could not bear his very unpleasant way of bothering me frequently with private letters. My best thanks are also due to you for your alluding to Lord Napier's private note to you and I entirely

rely

rely on the assurances made therein as kindly mentioned in yours. The peace of my mind would entirely depend on the satisfactory settlement of this affair as you could easily imagine.

Yours Sincerely

Sd/ Rama Vurmah.

11 January 1871.

My dear Sir,

As you so strongly advise me not to send the proposed telegram to Lord Napier. I would submit to your kind advice. As regards the Dewan's proposal for three months leave afte the close of the trial perhaps with the view of taking advantage of the privilege leave and drawing his three months full salary I could not agree. As to the appearance of dis-grace to him, if I could as a Sovereig fall a victim to his disgrace on several occasions during the 10 years of my reign, why cannot the Ministe who has been the object of my gravest displeasure suffer for it deservedly at the close of his public career in a manner that would suit me.

If

If he is prepared to give his resigna-
tion at the close of this trial why
cannot he do so at once though I
would publicly avail and make use of it
only after a few days after the close
of the trial. If you could kindly
persuade the Dewan to do so I
will be perfectly satisfied and
that would at once relieve me from
the very serious anxieties I am now
laboring. I shall be very happy
to receive you at my Bungalow on
Friday Evening about 5 when only
I will be free from the ceremonies.

Yours sincerely
Sd/ Rama Varmah.

11th January 1871.

My dear Sir,

I must plainly tell you as a true friend what I really feel at this moment — my mind is quite disturbed and I felt the whole of yesterday extremely anxious without enjoying even my usual sound sleep and I am sure that my health cannot but be affected unless I have some perfectly definite understanding about the Dewan's retirement my anxiety for which is more deeply felt than can be described. May I therefore request you earnestly to do me the kindness of either permitting me to send the enclosed telegram at once directly to Lord Napier or you will yourself do the same as desired by me and get me the assurance

as

~~assurance~~ as soon as possible to
enable me to restore the peace of
mind. Please excuse me for any
unguarded expressions I might
have made at this really excited
state of my mind.

Yours Sincerely
Sd/ Rama Vurmah.

P.S. I understand that the Dewan
has already written himself several
private letters to Lord Napier and to
some of his influential friends at
Madras to prejudice their mind against
me. though I am sure that they will
not be influenced by any such mis-
representation made at a time when
the Dewan is so notoriously known
to be much hostile and thereby obnox-
ious to me, but I think it is nothing
but fair for me to have some such
assurance as early as possible with your
Kind

kind advice and powerful support
The Dewan having now only had an opportunity of knowing my real feelings about him of which he was hitherto under a mysterious delusion, he will certainly turn out as he has always my bitter enemy - and so it will not only be impolitic to keep him in his present position hereafter, but it will be very dangerous and unsafe also to have things (most unsatis-factory as they are) at present, as you could clearly perceive.

211

11th January 1871

My dear Sir,

On re-consideration I thought that it would look rather over anxious and precipitate on my part to ask the Dewan to place at my disposal his resignation now, even on the conditions made in my note of this morning, so you will be good enough not to make any movement in that direction - As you say in your's of this morning that I have not any cause for anxiety I will certainly wait with every patience and without even a word on the subject until the close of the State trial on the clear and definite understanding between us that the Dewan must positively retire after that quietly without making any plea for aski[ng] for leave to which I sincerely reg[ret]

I could not with propriety accede under the present most trying circumstances. I also feel I was rather inconsiderate in making you the proposal as I did this morning of sending the telegram to Lord Napier, and I trust such a little matter will be kindly overlooked by you with your generous heart as the result of the momentary impulse on account of my over-anxiety.

Yours Sincerely
S. J. Rama Vurmah.

12 January 1871

My dear Sir,

Cureela Vurmah called on me last evening after returning from the Residen[cy] and gave me the particulars of the inter-view he had with you. It appears from what he told that you were under the impression that I yielded in my third note of yesterday to your proposal of the Dewan's request made through you for three months leave before his actual re-tirement after the trial of the treasury case, but you will find from a re-perusal of my last note that I have stated there that I sincerely regret tha[t] I could not with propriety accede to the Dewan's wishes in this respect, which I repeat now also. Cureela Vurmah further told me that you have made a second proposal to the Government on Tuesday after seeing the Dewan and you are waiting to have a reply to that

that which would settle the question without any reference to your first proposal which you were so kind as to show me and which was quite in accordance to my wishes with the exception of one point, that is the amount of pension in which I had reason to differ from you as you could perceive from my Note of the 30 ultimo. If I had seen your second proposal also to the Government I should have made my own remarks which would not have placed me into the embarrassing position of differing from your views as I have reason to do so. Now the Dewan may have an opportunity of knowing what I have stated to you about him while I was kept quite at dark of what he writes either directly or through you to the Government in his own defence or in making any proposal which would suit him and to which I will have to dissent - such as the proposal

of

of three months leave. You may see that there is such a disadvantage to me in this point. To sum up the case in a few words I may say that it is my decided opinion that the Dewan must positively retire at the close of this State trial without asking for any leave as it has been now moved by himself without my consent, and he may have the already finally settled pension which would only make the retirement appear as an honorable and voluntary without any appearance of disgrace as the Dewan is led to suppose. Cureela Vurmah will, I think, again call on you this morning.

Yours Sincerely
Sd/ Rama Vurmah.

12 January 1871.

My dear Sir,

I am deeply grateful to you for your very kindly showing me the important and interesting papers herewith returned with many thanks. While I have the greatest regard and consideration to your truly valuable advice I must conscientiously state what I feel at the bottom of my heart that it will be quite out of my power to accede to the Dewan's wishes for having three months leave before his actual retirement, as I have the strongest reasons to apprehend that such a concession would certainly lead to very serious intrigues, confusion and insuperable difficulties and would ultimately prove very injurious to the next administration we have in view to be effected without any opposition or undue influence by the

retiring

retiring Minister whose unparalleled influence and strong party feelings are so proverbially known. But I would gladly suggest the following as a substitute. I will permit the Dewan to be in his position after the State trial for a fortnight and then he may retire himself quietly and honorably in a manner to show to the public that his retirement was a spontaneous one without the least concern in the treasury defalcation case, which would not give any appearance of disgrace to the Dewan. If the Dewan gracefully yields to this I will be very glad; - if not I have no alternative but to stick to my own decision.

Yours Sincerely
Sd/ Rama Vurmah.

Sunday 1st

My dear Sir,

I have to thank you to your note of yesterday, but as I am really very anxious to know what is the object of Mr. Arbuthnot's coming to Trevandrum you will be good enough to send a telegram at once to the Government as desired by me and let me know the result soon after the receipt of the reply

X

as you say that Mr. Arbuthnot's visit may be connected with this unpleasant matter.

Yours Sincerely

H. Rama Varmah.

Monday

My dear Sir,

Many thanks to the sight of the telegram herewith returned; and when Mr Arbuthnot comes I will simply have to intimate to him what I have so clearly stated to you on the subject without the least change in my already formed deliberate opinion. I entirely rely on your strong assurance and powerful support at this most critical state of things and also under the extraordinary and unusual proceedings in connection with this affair. I will as suggested not allow myself to be wronged though you could easily imagine how could I enjoy the peace of mind when the matter has unfortunately taken so peculiar a turn quite unexpected as it was. Permit

me

me to state freely but confidentially
whether the proposed visit of the 1st.
Member of Council would not look
as if the Government had no suffi-
-cient confidence in what the Sovereign
and their own Representative stated
so clearly in the affair about the
Dewan. It will be quite impossible
for me to submit to the truly pain-
-ful necessity of having any personal
Enquiry made between me and the
Dewan on this subject by Mr.
Arbuthnot as if I
the Dewan.

Yours Sincerely
S.Y. Rama Vurmah.

py sent to Press.

ed for signature.

ched.

AIN G.O., No. . DATED
190 .

ST No.

LOSURES TO C. No.

EDER OF GOVERNMENT.

ETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL.

NUMBER OF COPIES REQUIRED. { Order comp
Letter only.
Order complete with

Spare Copies.

Struck ..	..	..	..
Issued ..	..	..	..

Total ..

In hand ..

N.B.—

A = Print in full.
B = Not to be printed.
P = Print abstract only.
Q = Print heading only.

CONFIDENTIAL.